

WORLD

Car slams into crowd at Carnival in German town, injuring dozens
Page 13



WAR/MILITARY

Top Marine prioritizes women in more jobs, added maternity leave
Page 6

WORLD

India welcomes Trump with massive rally
Page 12



BYU beats Gonzaga, solidifies NCAA Tourney spot » Back page

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE

EXERCISING CAUTION

US taking steps to guard against virus ahead of Cobra Gold drills in Thailand Page 3

US military widow tests positive for virus in South Korea Page 3

CENTCOM monitoring virus as Afghanistan sees 1st case Page 4

Army closes Vicenza facilities, schools as a precaution Page 4

VANCE HAND/US Navy

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Alfonza White explains decontamination procedures to Royal Thai Navy sailors aboard the USS America on Monday before the start of Cobra Gold 2020.

Trump says he's ready to sign Taliban peace deal if temporary truce holds

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Sunday he's ready to sign a peace deal with the Taliban in Afghanistan if a temporary truce holds in America's longest war. "Time to come home," he said.

"They want to stop. You know, they've been fighting a long time. They're tough people. We're tough people," Trump told reporters as he left the White House for a trip to India. "But after 19 years, that's a

long time."

The two sides earlier this month announced the truce, which took effect last Friday and set the stage for a broader deal aimed at ending 18 years of war in Afghanistan and bringing U.S. troops home.

If the truce proves a success, it will be followed by the signing of the peace accord on Saturday, wrapping up the U.S.'s longest-running conflict and fulfilling one of Trump's chief campaign promises.

"We think they want to make a deal. We

want to make a deal. I think it's going to work out. We'll see," Trump said.

For the Taliban, the successful completion of the truce and Afghanistan peace talks would give the militants a shot at international legitimacy, which they lacked at the time they ran the country and gave Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida associates safe haven.

U.S. officials have noted the possibility that "spoilers" uninterested in peace talks could disrupt the truce. Determining who

is responsible for potential attacks during the seven days will therefore be critical.

On Sunday, Trump expressed cautious optimism about reaching a peace deal.

"You know we have a certain period of nonviolence. It's been holding up, it's a day and a half, so we'll see what happens. But people want to make a deal, and I think the Taliban wants to make a deal, too; they're tired of fighting."

There are more than 12,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

TSA bans employees from creating TikTok videos

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration said Sunday it has stopped allowing employees to use the China-owned video app TikTok to create social media posts for the agency after the Senate's top Democrat raised concerns about potential national security issues.

New York Sen. Chuck Schumer sent a letter Saturday to TSA Administrator David Pekoske, months after news reports that

the U.S. government launched a national security review of the app, which is popular with millions of U.S. teens and young adults. Schumer also cited a Department of Homeland Security policy prohibiting TikTok on agency devices.

The TSA said in a statement Sunday that a "small number of TSA employees have previously used TikTok on their personal devices to create videos for use in TSA's social media outreach, but that practice has since been

discontinued."

In his letter, Schumer said national security experts have raised concerns about TikTok's collection and handling of user data and personal information, locations and other content.

"Given the widely reported threats, the already-in-place agency bans, and the existing concerns posed by TikTok, the feds cannot continue to allow the TSA's use of the platform to fly," Schumer said in a statement to The Associated Press.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 25)	\$1.1106	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Dollar buys (Feb. 25)	60.9004	British pound	\$1.2951
British pound (Feb. 25)	\$1.32	Canada (Dollar)	1.3277
Japanese yen (Feb. 25)	109.00	China (Yuan)	7.0547
South Korean won (Feb. 25)	1,187.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.8866
		Egypt (Pound)	15.5717
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.0849/0.9217
		British pound	7.7928
		Israel (Shekel)	3.4296
		Japan (Yen)	110.75
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3065
		Norway (Krone)	9.3227
		Poland (Zloty)	51.06
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.96
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3988
		South Korea (Won)	1,219.68
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9773
		Thailand (Baht)	31.72
		Turkey (Lira)	6.1362

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.58
3-month bill	1.32
30-year bond	1.92

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 10
- Classified 13
- Comics 16
- Crossword 16
- Faces 11
- Opinion 14-15
- Sports 17-24

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VIRUS OUTBREAK



VANCE HAND/U.S. Navy

Cmdr. Alfonza White gives a presentation on decontamination procedures to Royal Thai Navy Sailors during a tour before the start of Cobra Gold 2020, the largest theater security cooperation exercise in the Indo-Pacific region.

US takes precautions ahead of Cobra Gold exercise in Thailand

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military is sending a larger contingent this year to Cobra Gold, one of the Indo-Pacific's largest multinational exercises, even as the new coronavirus sweeps the region, according to U.S. officials.

Additional medical personnel and supplies will be on hand to guard against the virus called COVID-19 when Cobra Gold 2020 begins Tuesday in Thailand, officials said. The World Health Organization on Sunday reported 35 cases of the virus in Thailand, according to its website.

This year, the 39th replay of Cobra Gold, military personnel from 29 countries plan on taking part in activities ranging from amphibious assaults to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, according to a statement from the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok.

The United States is sending approximately 5,500 service personnel ashore and afloat — up from about 4,500 last year, the embassy statement said.

They will be joined by full participant nations Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea, Marine Capt. George McArthur of the Cobra Gold 2020 Combined-Joint Information Bureau told Stars and Stripes via email on Thursday.

The coronavirus appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December and has since spread around the globe.

"As part of the mitigation strategy, we have brought additional medical capabilities, supplies, to include individual personal protective equipment, and additional preventive medicine specialists," he wrote.

The exercise, co-sponsored by the Royal Thai and U.S. armed forces, is scheduled to run until March 6 throughout Thailand.

Exercise officials said safeguarding the health of participants is a priority.

Last week, South Korea announced a drastic reduction in the number of its participating troops, from 400 to about 30, its navy said. It will forgo scheduled maneuvers and instead participate only in simulated command-post exercise.

Japan is participating for the 16th time and is sending 240 personnel from its various Self-Defense Force branches, a Joint Staff statement said.

Countries like the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Australia, Canada, France and Mongolia will participate in a multinational command-post and cyber exercise, McArthur said. Observer nations include Germany, Laos, Israel, Cambodia and Vietnam.

India and China will participate only in the humanitarian civic action portion of the exercise, he said.

Cobra Gold 2020 consists of three primary events this year: a staff exercise that includes a senior leader seminar, humanitarian civic action projects in Thai communities and field training, the U.S. Embassy's statement said. After an opening ceremony Tuesday at Camp Akatotsarot in Phitsanulok province, an amphibious assault will follow Friday at Hat Yai Beach, Chonburi province.

Noncombatant evacuation operations will take place Friday at U-Tapao Airfield, Rayong province, the statement said. Landmine demolition operations are planned for March 3 at Pakdee Paendin Range, Sa Kaeo province.

Humanitarian and disaster-relief training is scheduled for March 4 at the Disaster Relief Training Center in Chachengsao province, and a combined arms live-fire exercise is planned for March 6 in Ban Phuan Lan Hoi District, Sukhothai province, where there will also be a closing ceremony.

Stars and Stripes reporter Aya Ichihashi contributed to this report. burke.matt@stripes.com
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USFK on high alert after positive coronavirus test

Widow of retired soldier first confirmed case for Army in S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The widow of a retired soldier who recently visited stores on a southeastern base tested positive for the new coronavirus in the first confirmed case for the Army in South Korea, officials said Monday as the military went on high alert.

Schools on bases across the country also were closed for the rest of the week, according to the Department of Defense Education Activity.

The situation escalated as South Korean health authorities struggled to contain the spread of the deadly respiratory virus after an outbreak in the southeastern city of Daegu and surrounding areas pushed the number of infections past 800, with eight deaths.

South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "informed us today [a U.S. Forces Korea] dependent in Daegu tested positive for COVID-19, making this the first time a USFK individual has tested positive," a USFK statement said.

"USFK has raised the risk level to 'high' for USFK peninsula-wide as a prudent measure to protect the force," it added.

That triggered preparations to implement health screening measures at the gates and other restrictions on Camp Humphreys, the main U.S. Army garrison on the divided peninsula, and other restrictions beginning Tuesday, officials later explained.

No active-duty service members or relatives of active-duty service members have tested positive for the coronavirus that has rapidly spread over the past week, Camp Humphreys garrison commander Col. Michael Tremblay said separately at a town hall-style meeting Monday.

"We have had a number of U.S. soldiers and dependents that were tested, but they all came back negative," Tremblay said.

The woman who tested positive was the widow of a retired soldier, USFK commander Gen. Robert Abrams said in a tweet, adding the command was saddened she had contracted the virus. "We pray for her recovery," he said.

She had visited the post exchange on Feb. 12 and 15 at Camp Walker in the southeastern city of Daegu, which has been the epicenter of a recent outbreak,

according to USFK.

Another official told Stars and Stripes that the woman also had shopped at the commissary on the base, which already has essentially locked down soldiers for nonessential movement off-post and implemented health screening at the gates.

"We are going to begin to limit all soldier movement," Tremblay said. "We're really serious when we say limit travel, stay indoors. We can control that activity with soldiers and we're going to. We're still working through what that means with families and dependents."

The military's decision to go to health protection condition Charlie, the second-highest level behind Delta, came after weeks of insisting that soldiers, their families and civilian contractors were relatively safe from the virus spreading outside the gates.

"We are going to begin to limit all soldier movement," Tremblay said. "We're really serious when we say limit travel, stay indoors. We can control that activity with soldiers and we're going to. We're still working through what that means with families and dependents."

The health screening measures to begin Tuesday were similar to those already underway at the Army garrison in Daegu, with questionnaires about possible exposure to COVID-19 and temperature checks before entry. All but three gates would close to facilitate the process, Tremblay said.

USFK already had established a quarantine facility in a barracks in the old part of the base to house for two weeks service members who had been to China, which is believed to be the incubation period for the virus.

Service members also were being quarantined while waiting for the results of COVID-19 tests, which have to be outsourced to overstretched South Korean hospitals, creating a backlog, Tremblay said, adding that more quarantine and isolation facilities were being readied protectively.

DODEA said it was assembling a working group to finalize educational plans to conduct classes virtually after closing schools across the country.

"In coordination with USFK to include an overabundance of caution, the decision was made to close all DODEA schools in Korea for the remainder of the week," the agency's Pacific regional chief of staff, Todd Schlitz said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Dave Oranauer contributed to this report. gamel.kim@stripes.com
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7th Fleet to screen all personnel boarding ships amid virus threat

By CATHY DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The 7th Fleet has begun screening all personnel accessing its warships and aircraft as the new coronavirus continues to spread across parts of Asia, Navy officials said Monday.

The new screening requirements apply to crew, visitors, civilians, contractors and others entering 7th Fleet "units and platforms" throughout its area of responsibility, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Kelley said in an email Monday evening.

"At this time, there are no indications that any U.S. 7th Fleet personnel have been affected by [the coronavirus]," he added.

The 7th Fleet's checks will in-

clude questionnaires and self-reporting opportunities, as well as other medical screening, Stars and Stripes learned Monday. Officials have also made plans to provide supportive care and isolation if warranted, and ship commanding officers can implement additional screenings after the initial assessments if deemed necessary.

The U.S. Embassy in Japan raised the travel risk in the country to Level 2 — "exercise increased caution" — over the weekend. As of Sunday, there were 132 confirmed cases of the virus in Japan, according to the World Health Organization. Symptoms include cough, sneezing and shortness of breath.

The Yokosuka-based 7th Fleet's area of operations spans

124 million square miles from the International Date Line to the India-Pakistan border and from the Kuril Islands to the Antarctic. The four countries with the most coronavirus cases — China, South Korea, Japan and Singapore — all fall within the 7th Fleet's area of responsibility.

At nearby Camp Zama, the Army is monitoring the situation and "looking at our force health protection measures," U.S. Army Japan spokesman Maj. Elias Chelala said Monday.

The U.S. Army Japan commander will also host a town hall Wednesday at the Camp Zama Community Club "to discuss housing and health concerns," he added.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

US military in Italy extends virus measures

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The military has moved to try to prevent the coronavirus spreading to U.S. bases in Italy, even as Italian officials struggle to contain the largest outbreak of the respiratory illness in Europe.

In Vicenza, U.S. Army Garrison Italy shuttered on-base schools, child care centers, gyms and churches. Initially, they said they would remain closed through Wednesday, but then they followed the city's lead and extended the closures until March 1.

While there were no confirmed cases of coronavirus in the city Monday, 200 people have been diagnosed with the illness throughout Italy, including a cluster of at least 22 cases in Vo' Euganeo, just 30 miles away from Vicenza.

The other confirmed cases were in the Lombardy region, where Italian officials have locked down more than 50,000 people in a dozen towns.

At least six people have died in Italy and 26 people are in intensive care, officials said.

Vicenza military personnel were ordered to avoid nonessential travel to Lombardy and Vo'



NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

Vicenza commissary shoppers wait in long lines to check out Sunday, amid uncertainty about the coronavirus' spread in Italy.

Euganeo.

At Aviano Air Base, located in a different province than the Army garrison, base schools remained open but officials have banned service members and their families from traveling to Lombardy and the Veneto.

The 31st Fighter Wing's health clinic at Aviano has set up a hotline, which anyone who recently visited either area can call to arrange a screening for the virus.

Some people who traveled to Venice's Carnevale, which was cut short Sunday amid coronavirus fears, were told to stay home.

Americans in Vicenza who need to be tested for the virus will be directed to San Bortolo hospital and not the base clinic, which doesn't yet have access to the diagnostic test for the virus.

So far, the virus response hasn't affected operations, garrison officials said. But it would if Italians

lock down one of the towns where many Americans live, such as Torri di Quartesolo, they said.

On Sunday evening in Vicenza, the commissary was so packed that no shopping carts were available and customers waited in lines for an hour to check out. Officials said that the store had done double its usual Sunday business and stocks of many items were wiped out.

But if all expected deliveries arrived on Monday, there would be no shortages, they said.

"I'm worried about the coronavirus," one man commented to the woman in line in front of him. "They should spray."

"Yes, I agree, we should pray," the woman replied. "That's what we do in my country."

In the post exchange, a worker for the base's closed child care center was stocking up on antiseptic wipes placed near the checkout. He got to a case from the back rather than take all the ones out front, he asked.

"It's survival of the fittest, man," said another man. "Just take them all."

An exchange worker said all the store's surgical masks had sold out days ago, even though the most commonly available masks

aren't effective against viruses, said Col. Rodney Coldren, chief of Preventive Medicine Services, Public Health Command Europe. They are recommended for sick people, though, to avoid spreading illnesses.

Young soldiers and civilians said they weren't too worried.

"I think if you're young and you're not immuno-compromised you won't have any issues. I don't think it's different than the flu," Staff Sgt. Myron Young said, who added that "in fact, I know someone who died of the flu this year." The virus seems to spread like influenza. But unlike SARS and MERS, the new coronavirus can be transmitted by people who show no symptoms.

"What makes this more significant is not the severity of the disease but the fact that there's no immunity to this virus so there are many more people who can be infected," Coldren said.

He recommended hand-washing once every hour as the best prevention and urged sick people to stay home.

Stars and Stripes reporter Norman Llamas contributed to this report. montgomery.nancy@stars.com Twitter: @montgomerynancy

CENTCOM, US forces in Afghanistan track spread of coronavirus

BY J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S.-led international coalition in Afghanistan is closely monitoring the potential spread of coronavirus in the country, as Afghan officials confirmed the first case of infection Monday.

The health and safety of the international forces are "top priorities," NATO's Resolute Support mission said in a statement, which came as American military officials throughout the Central Command area of responsibility were working to respond to the virus's spread.

"As suspected cases are beginning to appear regionally, we are closely monitoring and implementing the guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to ensure our forces remain effective and able to continue support to our (Afghan) partners while preventing the spread of the virus," the statement said.

A man from the western city of Herat who recently traveled to Iran has tested positive for the virus and has been quarantined, said Ahmad Tawhid Shokhmand, deputy spokesman for the Afghan Health Ministry.

The city is home to an Italian-run regional headquarters for the NATO mission at Camp Arana,

which is home to some American and other international troops.

The bulk of U.S. troops are based in the country's east and south, hundreds of miles from the city.

Traders and workers from Herat frequently cross into Iran, where coronavirus infections have killed several people across the country, The Associated Press reported Monday.

Afghanistan has issued a ban on travel to Iran, Shokhmand said, and is preparing 30 beds in eight locations around the country for possible coronavirus patients.

The coronavirus, which causes the COVID-19 illness, first appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan last December.

The World Health Organization has declared it a global health emergency, with more than 2,400 deaths around the world as of Sunday, most of them in China.

The outbreak has already led to heightened health and security measures at U.S. military bases in South Korea and Italy.

The U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain, which lies across the Persian Gulf from Iran, also issued new guidance after the island kingdom said Monday that it had confirmed a coronavirus infection.

Service members entering Bahrain from mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand,

Locations with confirmed COVID-19 cases

As of 11 a.m. EST Feb. 24



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NOGA ARAW/Stars and Stripes

Malaysia and South Korea are subject to a 14-day home quarantine in line with Bahraini guidelines, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command said in a statement Monday.

Service members are also being prevented from taking leave to those countries and territories, the statement said.

The Navy said it will follow its internal response protocols as well as CDC guidelines.

The CDC recommends avoiding close contact with people who are sick, as well as avoiding touching the eyes, nose and mouth.

It also recommends regularly washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

CDC guidance recommends

masks for caregivers and people who are sick, but not for protection against respiratory diseases.

Meanwhile, U.S. military officials in Iraq said they were working on a statement Monday afternoon regarding their coronavirus response after COVID-19 was found in an Iranian student in the Iraqi Shiite holy city of Najaf on Monday.

Iraq closed its border with Kuwait after that country reported three cases of the illness among travelers who'd recently returned from Iran, Reuters reported Monday.

Over the weekend, Iraq extended a ban on non-Iraqis arriving from Iran.

Two Omani women also contracted the virus after visits to Iran, Oman's health ministry said Monday, according to Reuters.

The Washington Post reported the White House is preparing to request an emergency spending package from Congress as soon as this week to finance its response to the novel coronavirus outbreak, three people briefed on the planning said Monday.

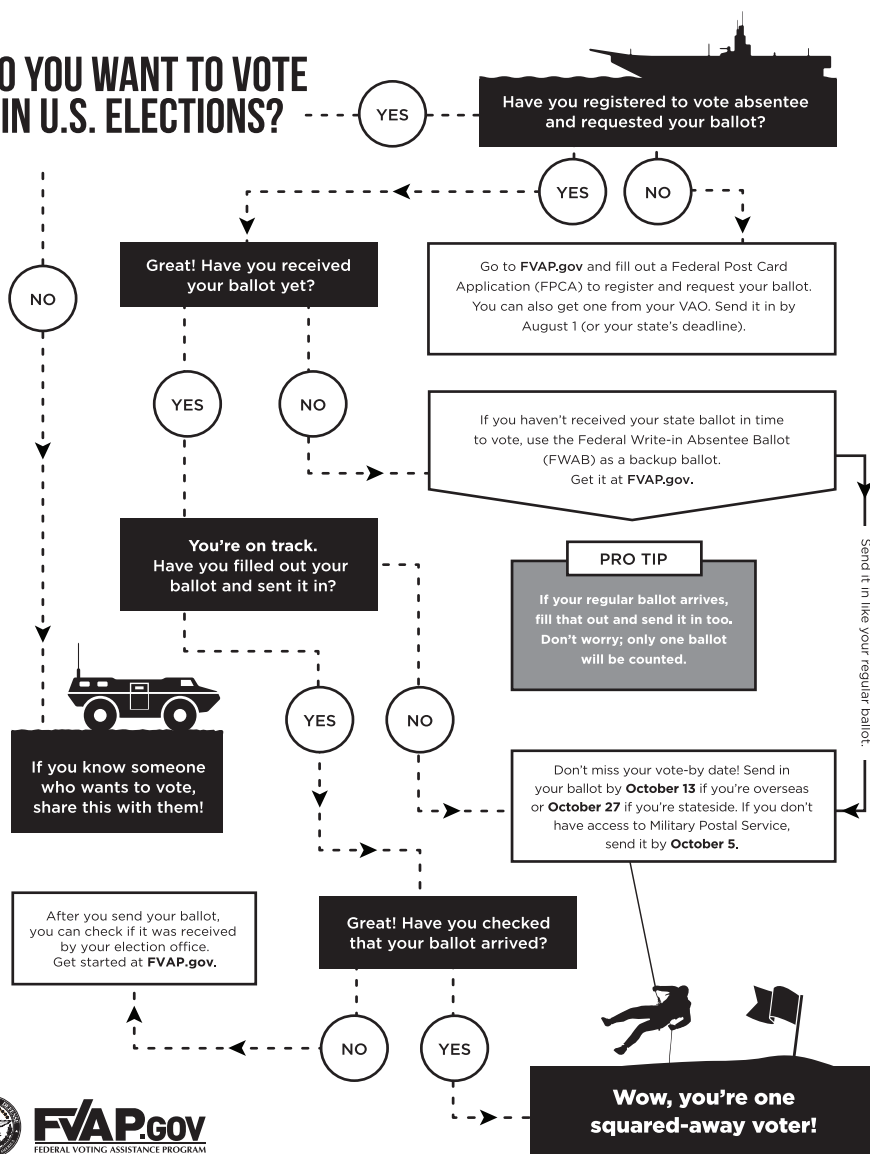
Details remained in flux as the Trump administration continues to assess needs.

Stars and Stripes reporters Chad Garland, Joshua Karsten and Zubair Babakharli contributed to this report. lawrence.jp@stars.com Twitter: @jplawrence3

So you're stationed overseas and it's an election year...

This handy flowchart on absentee voting lays it all out.

DO YOU WANT TO VOTE IN U.S. ELECTIONS?



FVAP.gov
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WAR/MILITARY

USFK: Worker furloughs would impact military

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A threatened furlough of South Koreans who work for the U.S. military would have “a negative impact on military operations and readiness,” the top commander, Gen. Robert Abrams, said Monday, as the United States raised pressure on Seoul to agree to a new defense cost-sharing deal.

The Pentagon said in a statement Sunday it will fund critical contracts and salaries but warned that most South Korean employees will be furloughed in April if a new agreement isn't reached.

The comments came on the eve of a planned meeting in Washington between Defense Secretary Mark Esper and his South Korean counterpart, Jeong Kyeong-do, nearly two months after the previous contract, known as the Special Measures Agreement, expired. The defense chiefs were to discuss the agreement and other bilateral issues.

South Korea's defense ministry promised to step up efforts to reach a deal but declined to discuss details, citing the ongoing negotiations.

“I can tell you that we will beef up our efforts to try to conclude the negotiations as soon as possible in order to minimize the effect of the absence of an SMA,” ministry spokesman Moon Hong-sik said Monday at a press briefing in Seoul.

The allies have been unable to bridge the gap after Washington demanded that South Korea pay as much as \$5 billion per year, a fivefold increase.

U.S. negotiators said they have softened their demands but are reportedly still seeking to expand the number of costs covered by the agreement.

South Korea, which has helped support U.S. troops under the agreement since 1991, has insisted that negotiations should be kept within the current framework, with most of the funds used for more than 9,000 South Korean employees, logistical support and construction projects.

The funds aren't used for American troop salaries or military operations.

The vast majority of SMA contributions go back into the South Korean economy, the Pentagon said, adding that the clock was ticking for U.S. funds being used to sustain South Korean salaries after the deal lapsed at the end of last year.

U.S. funds will be exhausted March 31 unless the South Korean government agrees to materially increase its support for U.S. forces committed to the defense of South Korea, according to the Pentagon statement.

“It will be necessary to furlough most [Korean national] employees on April 1, 2020, and suspend many construction and logistics activities,” if no deal is reached, the statement said.

However, the Pentagon an-



MATTHEW KELLER/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Robert Abrams, left, and Eighth Army commander Lt. Gen. Michael Bills talk following a town hall-style meeting at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Monday. Abrams said a furlough of Korean workers would have “a negative impact” on the military.

nounced that “critical” logistics cost-sharing contracts and the salaries of “key” South Korean employees will continue to be funded by the Defense Department.

“All other services supported by [Korean national] employees will need to be suspended in an orderly and deliberate fashion,” it said, without elaborating.

Furloughs may be avoided if South Korea agrees to a “more equitable” Special Measures Agreement, it said, insisting the United States “remains committed to negotiating a mutually acceptable agreement which provides for fair and equitable burden sharing.”

U.S. Forces Korea, which commands the 28,500 American service members stationed in South Korea, welcomed Esper's deci-

sion to fund critical contracts and services.

It has been planning for the furlough by identifying key positions to mitigate risks to the force.

“As we just received this information, we're analyzing this decision now to include the number of [Korean national] employees who will not be furloughed,” USFK spokesman Col. Lee Peters said Monday in an email.

The command also took the unusual step of sending a press release announcing plans to hold town hall-style meetings later Monday on bases across the divided peninsula to inform the military community about the likely effects of the furlough.

“The potential furlough will have a significant impact — both emotionally and financially — to

our Korean national employees,” said Abrams, the USFK commander.

“It will also have some negative repercussions to installation services,” he added. “The USFK community relies heavily on our installations for quality of life services, and the potential furlough will have more than just a negative impact on military operations and readiness.” The allies also missed the deadline in 2018 but agreed a few weeks later to a stopgap measure increasing South Korea's contribution by 8.2% but only lasting a year.

Negotiations over the amount, previously held every five years, have always been contentious.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
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Women in more job fields, added maternity leave on top Marine's list

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

Furthering gender integration in job fields previously closed to women, expanding maternity leave and raising the intellectual bar for infantry troops are among the Marine Corps' priorities, the service's top officer said.

In a series of posts on Twitter last week, Commandant Gen. David Berger highlighted his “most important matters,” which also include barring officer and enlisted applicants with a prior conviction for gender-based violence and domestic violence.

It's unclear why he chose to highlight the ban on applicants with gender-based or domestic violence convictions, which was the first of the measures he mentioned.

His spokesman did not immediately respond to an inquiry seek-

ing clarification.

The service already prohibits those convicted of sex-related crimes or domestic violence from serving, and such disqualifications can't be waived, said Gunnery Sgt. Justin Kronenberg, a spokesman for Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

Berger's tweets aimed at rectifying gender-related issues within the service, which has the smallest percentage of women in its ranks and has long faced criticism for its gender-segregated basic training and resistance to integrating women into combat roles.

Berger called for a review to determine the feasibility of women in the reserves returning to active duty in units and jobs that were previously gender-restricted.

The service's leaders should also seek out active duty women in company-grade officer ranks to

volunteer for the Infantry Officer Course and serve in infantry battalions, he said.

The commandant's plans are an attempt to put female Marines in leadership positions, Sgt. Callahan Brown, of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, said Monday.

There are few women in infantry battalions, said Brown, a female Marine who was part of an integrated ground combat element from October 2014 to July 2015.

“A steady stream of additional women in the job fields will ensure prosperity for the future women and men entering the Marine Corps,” Brown said.

The commandant also ordered a study of the effects of extending the current 12 weeks of maternity leave to 12 months, which former Navy Secretary Ray Mabus told Military.com last week was

a good way to recruit and retain more women.

Mabus, who had increased maternity leave for the sea services from six weeks to 18 in 2015, said that women were twice as likely to leave the Navy and Marine Corps at the 6- and 12-year marks, often to have families.

A full year off is a “great option for allowing military mothers to provide undivided attention to nurture their children during the most important developmental year of their lives,” said Sgt. Gloria Lepko, who serves with 2nd Marine Division.

Another change to parental leave policies Berger called for would extend the policy to cover adoptive parents, including same-sex couples.

Two other of Berger's ideas focused on intellectual requirements.

They would raise the general intelligence standard for entry into the infantry and incorporate academic standing into fitness reports for sergeants and above attending military education courses.

Currently, Marines receive “non-observed” fitness reports while at military schools.

If it won't hurt the Corps' recruiting efforts “irreparably,” Berger said, he wants to raise the minimum general technical score for would-be grunts to 100.

But Cpl. Christopher Rea, a rifleman with II MEF, scored a 99 and said he thinks he's able to “do the job just fine.”

“It takes time to grow into the job and get the knowledge [for it],” Rea said.

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NATION

Weinstein found guilty in landmark #MeToo moment

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein was convicted Monday of rape and sexual assault against two women and was immediately led off to jail in handcuffs, sealing his dizzying fall from powerful Hollywood studio boss to archvillain of the #MeToo movement.

The 67-year-old had a look of resignation on his face as he heard the verdict that could send him to prison for up to 29 years.

He was convicted on charges stemming from a 2006 sexual assault and a 2013 rape. The jury found Weinstein not guilty on the most serious charge, predatory sexual assault, which could have resulted in a life sentence.

Weinstein's lawyers said they will appeal.

The most damaging conviction, for the sexual assault of production assistant Mimi Holey, would carry a maximum sentence of 25 years.

The verdict followed weeks of often harrowing and excruciatingly graphic testimony from a string of accusers who told of rapes, forced oral sex, groping, masturbation, lewd propositions and that's-Hollywood excuses from Weinstein about how the casting couch works.

The conviction was seen as a long-overdue reckoning for Weinstein after years of whispers about his behavior turned into a torrent of accusations in 2017 that destroyed his career and gave rise to #MeToo, the global movement to encourage women to come forward and hold powerful men accountable for their sexual misconduct.

The jury of seven men and five women took five days to find him guilty.

The case against the once-fearful producer was essentially built on three allegations: that he raped an aspiring actress in a



SETH WENIG/AP

Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan courthouse for jury deliberations in his rape trial Monday in New York.

New York City hotel room in 2013, that he forcibly performed oral sex on Holey and that he raped and forcibly performed oral sex on "Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra in her apartment in the mid-1990s.

Three additional women who said they, too, were attacked by Weinstein also testified as part of an effort by prosecutors to show a pattern of brutish behavior on his part.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sex crimes unless they grant permission, as Holey and Sciorra did.

Jurors signaled their struggles with the Sciorra charges four days into deliberations. On Friday, after reviewing sections of her testimony and related evidence, they sent a note to the judge indicating they were deadlocked on the counts but had reached a

unanimous verdict on the others. After some debate in the courtroom, the judge ordered jurors to keep deliberating.

While Weinstein did not testify, his lawyers contended that any sexual contact was consensual. The defense seized on the fact that two of the women central to the case stayed in contact with Weinstein through warm and even flirty emails — and had sex with him — well after he supposedly attacked them.

Weinstein now faces charges in Los Angeles. In that case, announced just as the New York trial was getting under way on Jan. 6, authorities allege that Weinstein raped one woman and sexually assaulted another on back-to-back nights during Oscars week in 2013. One of those women testified as a supporting witness at the New York trial.

Man tied to House campaign arrested

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — On Friday, the FBI arrested a man linked to former U.S. Rep. Katie Hill's 2018 House campaign for allegedly orchestrating a series of cyberattacks on a rival candidate that shut down the campaign's website for 21 hours.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles said that Arthur Jan Dam, 32, of Santa Monica, Calif., surrendered and was taken into custody on a complaint that says his computer attacks in April and May 2018 cut off campaign donations for Democrat Bryan Coforio and contributed to his narrow loss to Hill in the primary election.

Hill, who resigned last year amid a sex scandal and House ethics probe, said that she was "surprised and disturbed" to learn of the case.

"These charges do not reflect in any way on the thousands of honest, hard-working staff, volunteers and supporters who worked on my campaign, to whom I owe so much," she said in a statement.



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NATION

White House aides downplay Russia election meddling

By LAURA KING
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's national security adviser, in an exchange that touched on a perennial sore point for the president, said Sunday he had no knowledge of intelligence agency warnings that Russia is trying once again to help Trump by interfering in the 2020 campaign.

Another senior White House aide, meanwhile, insisted that last week's abrupt removal of retired Vice Adm. Joseph Maguire as acting director of national intelligence was unrelated to Trump's unhappiness over a closed-door intelligence briefing to lawmakers about Russian attempts at election interference.

Russian campaign meddling remains a highly sensitive subject for the president as he presses ahead with his reelection bid and as the Democratic contest for the nomination to oppose him gathers pace.

Trump has moved to punish those he saw as supporters of his impeachment for abusing power and obstructing Congress. During the proceedings, which ended with his acquittal earlier this month in a Senate trial, his backers suggested that Ukraine — not Russia — interfered with the 2016 campaign.

National security adviser Robert O'Brien, in an interview aired Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation," said he was not aware of any effort by Russia to try to bolster Trump's 2020 prospects, as the U.S. intelligence community concluded Moscow sought to do

in 2016.

"There's no briefing that I've received, that the president has received, that says that President [Vladimir] Putin is doing anything to try and influence the elections in favor of President Trump," O'Brien said. "We just haven't seen that intelligence."

Multiple news reports have said lawmakers were told last week that the Kremlin is seeking to help Sen. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont, secure the Democratic nomination. Sanders acknowledged Friday he was apprised last month by U.S. officials about unspecified Russian efforts to help his chances of becoming the nominee.

Trump's campaign aides have said they believe he would fare well in a matchup with Sanders, and the president Sunday congratulated the Vermont senator for his "great win" in Saturday's Nevada caucuses.

He also suggested anew that Democratic Party leaders might seek to deprive him of the nomination.

"I hope they're treated fairly," Trump said of the Sanders campaign, speaking to reporters outside the White House before leaving for a visit to India.

A prominent Democratic lawmaker Sunday pointed to the prospect of intelligence findings on Russia's activities being wielded as a weapon by the White House in the months between now and the November vote.

"I think we all worry about this administration controlling massive amounts of intelligence,



President Donald Trump is shown at a rally Friday, in Las Vegas. Trump's administration has been trying to downplay claims of Russian interference.

PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

massive amounts of classified information, and leaking it out to the press when it advantages them," Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Senior Trump aides, meanwhile, appeared on the defensive over last week's replacement of Maguire, the acting director of national intelligence, with a staunch Trump partisan, Richard Grenell, the U.S. ambassador to Germany.

Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, denied in an interview on "Fox News Sunday" that Maguire's precipitous departure was prompted by Trump's displeasure over a briefing to members of Congress given by one of Maguire's deputies. The official told the House Intelligence Committee about continuing Russian efforts to interfere in the U.S. presidential campaign.

Trump's own remarks, though, suggested he was upset about what transpired in the briefing. He suggested that Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., was behind news reports about Kremlin efforts to influence the election outcome.

Experts worry over risk of new voting machines

By FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

Nearly 1 in 5 U.S. voters will cast ballots this year on devices that look and feel like the discredited paperless voting machines they once used, yet leave a paper record of the vote. But computer security experts are warning that these so-called ballot-marking devices still pose too much of a risk.

Ballot-marking machines were initially developed not as primary vote-casting tools but as "accessible" alternatives for the disabled. They print out paper records that are scanned by optical readers that tabulate the vote.

They cost at least twice as much as hand-marked paper ballots, which computer scientists prefer because paper can't be hacked. That's an important consideration as U.S. intelligence officials warn that malicious meddling in this year's presidential contest could be worse than in 2016.

The machines have been vigorously promoted by the trio of privately held voting equipment vendors that control 88% of the U.S. market and are nearly unregulated at the federal level. They are expected to be used by some 40 million eligible voters more than in the 2018 midterm elections.

Key counties in the crucial swing states of Pennsylvania, Ohio and North Carolina, much of Texas, California's Los Angeles County and all of Georgia and Delaware have bought ballot-marking machines. So has South Carolina, which will use them in Saturday's primaries.

Some of the most popular such devices, from Election Systems & Software and Dominion Voting Systems, register votes in bar codes that the human eye can't decipher. That means skilled hackers could alter outcomes without detection, gaming bar codes while keeping voters' intended choices

on the human-readable portion of the ballot printed, computer scientists have found.

ES&S claims such tampering is "a practical impossibility." Spokeswoman Katina Granger said the company's ballot-marking machines' accuracy and security "have been proven through thousands of hours of testing and tens of thousands of successful elections." Dominion declined to comment for this story.

Even on machines that don't use bar codes, voters may not notice if a hack or programming error mangles their choices. A University of Michigan study determined that only 7% of participants in a mock election notified poll workers when the names on their printed receipts didn't match the candidates they voted for.

"There are a huge number of reasons to reject today's ballot-marking devices — except for limited use as assistive devices for those unable to mark a paper ballot themselves," says Doug Jones, a University of Iowa election security expert.

Critics say currently available ballot-marking devices undermine the very idea of retaining a paper record. It's an idea supported by a 2018 National Academies of Sciences report that favors hand-marked ballots tallied by optical scanners, which 70% of U.S. voters used in 2016 and 2018 and will again rely on in November.

But some election officials see ballot-marking devices as improvements over paperless touchscreens, which were used by 27% of voters in 2018. They like them because the touchscreens are familiar to voters, looking and feeling like what they've been using for nearly two decades, and they can use one voting method for everyone.

Pioneering black NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson dies

By BEN FINLEY
Associated Press

Katherine Johnson, a mathematician who calculated rocket trajectories and earth orbits for NASA's early space missions and was later portrayed in the 2016 hit film "Hidden Figures," about pioneering black female aerospace workers, has died. She was 101.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said on Twitter that she died Monday morning. No cause was given.

Bridenstine tweeted that the NASA family "will never forget Katherine Johnson's courage and the milestones we could not have reached without her. Her story and her grace continue to inspire the world."

Johnson was one of the "computers" who solved equations by

hand during NASA's early years and those of its precursor organization, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Johnson and other black women initially worked in a racially segregated computing unit in Hampton, Va., that wasn't officially dissolved until NACA became NASA in 1958. Signs had dictated which bathrooms the women could use.

Johnson focused on airplanes and other research at first. But her work at NASA's Langley Research Center eventually shifted to Project Mercury, the nation's first human space program.

"Our office computed all the (rocket) trajectories," Johnson told The Virginian-Pilot newspaper in 2012. "You tell me when and where you want it to come down, and I will tell you where

and when and how to launch it."

In 1961, Johnson did trajectory analysis for Alan Shepard's Freedom 7 Mission, the first to carry an American into space. The next year, she manually verified the calculations of a nascent NASA computer, an IBM 7090, which plotted John Glenn's orbits around the planet.

"Get the girl to check the numbers," a computer-skeptical Glenn had insisted in the days before the launch.

Johnson considered her work on the Apollo moon missions to be her greatest contribution to space exploration. Her calculations helped the lunar lander rendezvous with the orbiting command service module. She also worked on the Space Shuttle program before retiring in 1986.



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Former NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, seen here with Janelle Monáe, left, Taraji P. Henson, second right, and Octavia Spencer, right, at the 2017 Oscars, died Monday at 101.

NATION

Who is Person 1?

Whoever gets to fill out Census form

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — It's a question spouses, domestic partners and roommates are going to be forced to confront in the next few weeks as they fill out their 2020 Census forms: Who gets to be the primary person in the household?

Everyone else who lives in the home has to be identified on the form by how they are related to so-called "Person 1." It's a question that even the most egalitarian homes are going to have to figure out — though it's sure to spark some intriguing conversations.

For married couple Debbie Kleingberg and Frankie Huff, it's a no-brainer.

"Me, because anytime Frankie has paperwork, I do it," said Kleingberg, a credit administrator, who lives with her college-professor wife in an Orlando suburb.

Kleingberg says that the 2020 Census-answering process in their home will follow a familiar pattern.

"The notice will come in the mail. It will sit on the kitchen table for a couple of days, or weeks. It may even get lost, and we will find it after sorting through a pile of bills later," Kleingberg said.

But she will eventually fill it out.

"Being introverts, we don't want anyone knocking on our door," she said.

When it comes to the questionnaire may force spouses or domestic partners to talk about power dynamics they might not have discussed for 10 years, since the last time there was a decennial census, said Diana Betz, an assistant professor of psychology at Loyola University Maryland. In some households, the topic might never have come up.

That could mean contemplating whether having a bigger salary or a more important job title trumps the traditional gender norms a couple may have settled into, or if doing more for a household through domestic chores or

child-raising gives someone the claim, Betz said.

"You might be saying stuff that was previously left unspoken," Betz said.

In Betz's home, her husband, an economist, will be filling out the questionnaire when it first becomes available in mid-March, but that's only because he wrote his dissertation about the census.

"So, that's a complicating factor," she said.

The 2020 form says that "Person 1" should be someone who pays the rent or owns the home. If nobody meets that description, "start by listing any adult living here as Person 1," according to the form.

Until 40 years ago, Person 1 was called "head of household" or "head of family." But the U.S. Census Bureau stopped using those monikers as more women were entering the workforce and fewer men were the sole breadwinners. "Householder" is also used to describe the person to whom the relationship of all other household members is recorded.

The most recent American Community Survey offers a sneak-peak of how the genders of "Person 1" may break down in the 2020 Census — and it points to a fairly even divide.

In 2018, there were a total of 79 million households with families. In 41 million of those homes, the householder was a man, and in 38 million homes, the householder was a woman.

When asked how people should decide who in their home gets to respond, Census Bureau director Steven Dillingham said that he wasn't going to venture an opinion, "just as long as someone is answering and we get a self-response."

And who will be filling out the form in his home?

"That's a good question," Dillingham said. "Hopefully, I'm home and maybe it will be me. But if not, my wife will do a great job."



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Arizona Republican Gov. Doug Ducey, foreground, pauses during his State of the State address in January as Senate president Karen Fann, R-Prescott, right, and House Speaker Rusty Bowers, R-Mesa, left, listen in at the Capitol in Phoenix.

Arizona ends push for ban on sanctuary cities

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and Republican lawmakers have pulled a contentious proposal to enshrine an existing ban on so-called "sanctuary cities" in the state constitution.

The decision announced last Thursday night came on the eve of a now-canceled House hearing on the proposal the Republican governor asked lawmakers to send to voters. A Senate hearing earlier this month erupted in shouting and resulted in the removal of activists who called the proposal racist.

Republican leaders of the House and Senate and the governor's spokesman issued similar statements on the decision.

"We can confirm that legislation related to a constitutional ban on sanctuary cities will not receive additional consideration this session — a decision made jointly by legislative leadership and the Governor," the statement from GOP leaders issued by House majority spokesman Andrew Wilder said. "Sanctuary cities are illegal in Arizona. It will remain that way, and our

members will remain vigilant to keep these bad policies out of Arizona."

The statement from Ducey spokesman Patrick Ptak said that the state will also continue to oppose sanctuary policies that shield immigrants caught illegally in the state.

"The governor stands firmly with the people of Arizona in opposition to sanctuary cities, a California-style policy rejected overwhelmingly by voters in Tucson last fall," the statement said.

The proposal announced by Ducey during last month's State of the State address brought back warnings from Democrats about the return to "one of the darkest years in Arizona history" — referencing the 2010 passage of the law known as SB1070, which was designed to crack down on illegal immigration.

The governor had a testy exchange with reporters earlier Thursday who pressed him on what was a clear change in his yearslong practice of discouraging divisive immigration legislation. He said he had not changed his stance and shrugged off concerns that boycotts and loss of

business that followed passage of SB1070 would occur again.

"The state is booming," the governor said. "I think what would hurt the state's reputation is sanctuary cities, which people have tried to put on the ballot. That's what would hurt the state's reputation. The state's reputation is just fine. We've got people moving here every day."

Democratic Sen. Martin Quezada said Thursday that Ducey has made a major political miscalculation, and that's why he was dodging questions on "a huge change" in policy. He predicted a fast retreat by the governor.

"I think he saw what happened in Tucson and he thought, 'Hey, this is low-hanging fruit and I can slam-dunk an issue that's really big with the Trump crowd and with the extreme element of his political base, and it's going to pass easily if it gets to the ballot,'" Quezada said before the decision to pull the proposal was announced. "He didn't really think it through, because the reality is the people in general are kind of sick of this stuff, and I think he's going to start backtracking very soon."

Officials: Hawaii flu outbreak complicated by virus fears

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii is bracing for 50,000 to 70,000 cases of flu this year. But a surge in influenza has been complicated by fears of the new virus that started in China.

Many patients visiting Hawaii emergency rooms for flu cases are worried about contracting the illness known as COVID-19, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Sunday.

The flu is running rampant at

Hawaii health care facilities, officials said. A handful of hospitals diverted ambulances on at least one day last week because they were overwhelmed beyond capacity.

"There is an obvious psychological component to the flu this year complicated by the coronavirus," said Democratic Lt. Gov. Josh Green, an emergency room doctor. "None of our Hawaii residents have had coronavirus, but it's still a very real thing on people's minds."

The U.S. has already had 22 million influenza cases in the four months since flu season began. About three dozen Americans have been reported to have the virus that emerged late last year in central China.

One in 1,000 people typically die of the flu, officials said.

"That's not an insignificant number at all. That's thousands of people that have died from the flu. That's 50 to 70 people who could die from complications of flu in Hawaii each year alone,"

Green said.

"Of course coronavirus is killing 25 people out of 1,000," he added. "It's much more lethal, but you still have to be super mindful of the flu because so many people get it."

Dr. Julius Pham, interim chief quality officer at The Queen's Health Systems, said the emergency room at The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu treated about 44 cases of flu per week in the last month, up from an average 36 at the same time last year.

Queen's has experienced a nearly 40% increase in the number of hospitalized patients with influenza. About 120 patients have been hospitalized since the season began, up from 88 patients during the same period last year, Pham said.

"They have much more to be concerned about influenza than coronavirus," Pham said. "The good news is everything they would do to protect themselves from coronavirus would help with flu, too."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

US soldier in Iraq helps arrest burglars at home

IL PARK RIDGE — Two suspected burglars were arrested after a man who said he was a soldier deployed to Iraq called police to say he'd just watched two men on his smartphone he'd hooked up to his doorbell camera walk out of his garage carrying his power tools, authorities said.

Park Ridge officers responded to the area and spotted two men walking along a road not far from the address where the caller said he lived. Police said the men were carrying items they determined had been taken from the garage, as well as other items they believe had been stolen from cars in the area.

The Park Ridge Herald-Advocate reported that officers arrested Andres Gutierrez, 23, of Chicago and Brandon Shaw, 24, of Arcola.

Dogs take a bite out of mail delivery people

GA GLYNN COUNTY — Loose dogs are causing a problem in a south Georgia mobile home park that it's not safe to deliver the mail, postal officials said.

One of the dogs bit a mail carrier in December, tearing a ligament, a U.S. Postal Service supervisor said.

Mail has not been delivered ever since to the Transvilla Mobile Home Park in Glynn County, The Brunswick News reported.

"I can't have anyone else go in there and get bitten," Orlene Garcia, supervisor of customer services at the local post office said. "There's no control in the park. In the meantime, until we can come up with a solution, we have their mail here."

Teacher denies paper on same-sex marriage

MI MONTROSE — A Michigan teacher denied a request from a student with two mothers to write about same-sex marriage for a class assignment.

Destiny McDermitt, a junior at Hill McCloy High School in Montrose, was given an assignment earlier this month to write a speech discussing an issue they felt strongly about and to take a stand for or against it, MLive reported.

The teacher, who the district is not naming, allegedly told McDermitt she couldn't write about same-sex marriage because the topic could offend someone in the class, according to McDermitt and other students in the classroom at the time.

The student wrote a complaint letter to administrators and later moved to a different class.

Man finds 2 suspected bombs while on hike

HI HILO — An adventurer in Hawaii found two suspected unexploded military bombs while hiking on the Big Island.

Kona resident and adventure



HEATHER ROUSSEAU, THE ROANOKE (Va.) TIMES/AP

Taming the T-Rex

Xavier Harrington, 6, of Lynchburg, Va., rides a dinosaur during his first visit to Jurassic Quest in Roanoke, Va. The dinosaur park and museum has true-to-life-size dinosaurs at The Berglund Special Events Center in Roanoke. Harrington said he was not scared when he was on top of the Tyrannosaurus.

television host Kawika Singson discovered the bombs while exploring the lava fields of Mauna Loa last week, the Hawaii Tribune-Herald reported. Singson is the host of "Everything Hawaii." Singson saw the back end of the bomb sticking out of the lava, and when he entered the tube he saw the front end protruding through the ceiling, he said.

Worker cleans, secures fallen flag at vet's home

ME AUGUSTA — A propane delivery driver in Maine brushed off and secured an American flag that had been knocked off a veteran's home, the veteran told news outlets.

David Price told news outlets that he was upset when he saw via home security cameras connected to a phone app that his U.S. flag had fallen to the ground.

Price then got a motion alert on his phone from the camera and watched as a driver with Dead River, a company that provides heating and propane oil, arrived, brushed snow off the flag, secured it back in the post and returned to work making the propane delivery.

Price called it "a great act of kindness and respect."

'Gopher bomb' may have started 7-acre brush fire

CA BRENTWOOD — A bomb used to get rid of gophers may have started a brush fire in a Northern California sub-

THE CENSUS

\$200K

rior of steel-reinforced concrete construction. The three-story building was originally built to house people with no income, including the unemployed, widows, orphans and those with mental health issues. It was last used as a nursing home, which closed in 2010, and since then it's had three owners.

urb, authorities told the East Bay Times.

The fire burned seven acres in Brentwood in Contra Costa County before firefighters put it out.

If the fire is determined to have been started by a gopher bomb, it would be reminiscent of a scene in the 1980 movie "Caddyshack" in which a frustrated groundskeeper played by Bill Murray used dynamite in a futile effort to get rid of the burrowing rodents.

Video captures inmate's crash through ceiling

OH DAYTON — A security camera captured footage of a jail inmate's apparent escape attempt from a holding room that ended with her falling through a ceiling and landing head-first in a trash can.

Jessica Boomershine, 42, was charged with escape and vandalism following the episode late last month, according to the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office in Ohio.

Jail security video shows Boomershine climbing up a hold-

ing room wall as other inmates watch, and then moving out of sight. A few seconds later, parts of ceiling tiles fall to the floor. Boomershine's legs then appear, and guards pull her down. She ends up head-first in a trash can that then tips over.

Mascot to alter image after KKK references

VT RANDOLPH — The depictions of a Vermont high school's mascot will be removed following complaints the images were associated with the Ku Klux Klan.

Superintendent Layne Millington of the Orange Southwest School District announced the gym wall at Randolph Union High School showing a shrouded ghost riding a horse will be painted over, WPTZ reported.

But Millington made it clear that while the illustration of the mascot will change, the mascot itself won't.

Should a new image replace the one being removed, it'll be a version from the school archives that

shows a skeleton, he said.

Man dies after bound, gagged; wife arrested

IA WEST DES MOINES — An Iowa woman was arrested after police said she bound and gagged her husband for hours, leading to his death.

Govun Park, 41, was charged with first-degree murder and first-degree kidnapping in the death of her husband, Sung Nam, also 41, West Des Moines police said.

According to court records, Park used zip ties to bind Nam's feet and hands to a chair in their home. Park is accused of then tying Nam to the chair with rope and jamming clothing into his mouth before finally using duct tape to attach a towel over his head. Officers were called to their home and found Nam face down on the floor with no vital signs.

9 injured in accident involving 2 fire trucks

NH MANCHESTER — A crash involving two fire trucks and a pickup truck in New Hampshire's largest city sent eight firefighters and one other person to the hospital.

Manchester Fire Department District Chief Mike Gamache said all of the firefighters have been treated and released. The condition of the pickup truck driver was unclear.

From wire reports

FACES



CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Lizzo is named entertainer of the year at the NAACP Image Awards on Feb. 22 in Pasadena, Calif.

Lizzo, 'Just Mercy' take top NAACP Image honors

BY ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

Lizzo was named entertainer of the year and "Just Mercy" won best motion picture, best actor and best supporting actor Feb. 22 at the NAACP Image Awards, as the show that recognizes entertainers of color ladled honors on the film that was snubbed by bigger shows throughout awards season.

"We are such a beautiful people. This is just a reminder of all the beautiful things that we can do," said Lizzo as she accepted the night's last and biggest award, leaping and dancing off the stage at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium in Pasadena, Calif., as the show ended.

Host Anthony Anderson of "black-ish" opened the show, telecast on BET for the first time, with a monologue that took a shot at the lack of diversity at the Oscars and Hollywood's other ceremonies that handed out awards earlier in the year.

"Unlike other awards shows, we actually have black nominees," Anderson said.

Michael B. Jordan won best actor in a motion picture for his role as a crusading defense attorney in "Just Mercy," and Jamie Foxx won best supporting actor for the wrongly convicted man he fought for.

"This project is a lot bigger than me. It's about every person that's wrongfully convicted and sitting in a jail cell right now," Jordan said as he accepted the award.

"Thank you so much, black people, African Americans, and everything else we are."

He added, "It's always great to get it from black folks because we are so talented."

Lupita Nyong'o won best actress in a film for her role in "Us," and 15-year-old Marsai Martin won best supporting actress for her role in "Little" over superstar names including Jennifer Lopez, Janelle Monae and Octavia Spencer.

Martin's award went with three more she won Feb. 21 for her roles in "Little" and "black-ish" during the non-televised first night of the Image Awards.

"Thank you to all the beautiful black girls out there who inspire me every day," Martin said as she accepted the supporting actress award.

Martin's "black-ish" cast mate Tracee Ellis Ross won best actress in a TV comedy series, her ninth career Image Award.

It was a big Image Awards all-around for "black-ish," which took home seven, including best TV comedy and best actor in a TV comedy for host Anderson.

Auschwitz Museum objects to scene in Amazon series 'Hunters'

Associated Press

The museum of the Nazi German Auschwitz death camp is objecting to a scene in a new Amazon TV series that shows a murderous game of human chess being played there, insisting that no such thing took place at the camp.

The museum that guards the Auschwitz-Birkenau site in southern Poland, its historic facts and the memory of the victims tweeted about the scene in "Hunters." It said inventing fake scenes is "dangerous foolishness and caricature," encourages Holocaust deniers and is disrespectful of the camp's some 1.1 million victims, including women and children.

Most of the victims were Jews, but there were also Poles, Roma, Russian prisoners of war and others. They died in the camp's gas chambers or from starvation, disease and forced labor, or shot by the guards.

Museum spokesman Pawel Sawicki said Monday that authors and artists have a special obligation to tell the truth about Auschwitz, and that the "Hunters" authors did not contact the museum for facts.

"If anyone wants to show human tragedy in Auschwitz, it is enough to reach for the thousands of sources (survivors' testimonies) that are deeply shocking, but creating fiction that distorts the history of this real place is disrespectful of the people who suffered here," Sawicki told The Associated Press.

"Hunters" is about a postwar hunt in New York for Nazi war criminals. It includes a scene where Auschwitz inmates are figures in a chess game and are killed when they are taken off the chessboard.

"This is false. There was no such thing," Sawicki said.

'Sonic' tops box office, edges 'Call of the Wild'

"Sonic: The Hedgehog" zoomed to the top of the box office with a take of \$26.3 million in its second weekend while audiences ignored critics and headed "The Call of the Wild" as the Harrison Ford CGI dog flick finished a close second with \$24.8 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It was a strong weekend for both films, with each outperforming expectations and overcoming early doubts about design problems.

The Sega video game adaptation "Sonic the Hedgehog" was a laughingstock when its first trailer was released last year, but after a delay and a title-character makeover, the film has now brought in more than \$200 million globally.

"The Call of the Wild" was also mocked by many on social media for its CGI dog — the first five film adaptations of Jack London's 1903 novel all used real ones — but moviegoers bought into the digital dog and his 77-year-old costar.

In a very distant third with \$7 million was "Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey" in its third week.

The weekend's other wide release, "Brahms: The Boy II" starring Katie Holmes, was fourth with just \$5.9 million.

B. Smith, model turned lifestyle guru, dies at 70

Barbara "B." Smith, one of the nation's top black models who went on to open restaurants, launch a successful home products line and write cookbooks, died Feb. 22 at age 70 after battling early onset Alzheimer's.

Smith wrote three cookbooks, founded three successful restaurants and launched a nationally syndicated television show and a magazine. Her successful home products line was the first from a black woman to be sold at a nationwide retailer when it debuted in 2001 at Bed Bath & Beyond.

In 1976, she became the second black model to be on the cover of Mademoiselle magazine, after Jolie Jones in 1969.

Other news

A new Netflix series is tackling questions around the 1965 assassination of civil rights icon Malcolm X. "Who Killed Malcolm X?" dives into questions surrounding his accused killers and allegations of a botched investigation. The show available now on the streaming service comes as Feb. 21 marked the 55th anniversary of Malcolm X's death.

'Friends' reunion special in the works

The Mercury News

The full-out reunion that "Friends" fans have clamored for appears to finally becoming a reality.

Sources have told The Hollywood Reporter that the six core stars and the creators of the mega-hit NBC comedy from Warner Bros. TV are in talks to reunite on HBO Max.

Talks are currently underway for an unscripted reunion special that would feature Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer, as well as series creators David Crane and Marta Kauffman, "THR" writes.

Sources caution that a deal is far from done and agreements with cast and creatives still need to be hammered out. When and if deals are completed, the challenge will be sorting out everyone's schedules.

HBO Max and producers WBTV declined to comment.

News of a reunion special arrives after "Friends" found new audiences at its former streaming home on Netflix. The series officially left the streamer at the end of 2019 and will make its debut on WarnerMedia-backed HBO Max when that \$15 monthly subscription platform launches at a date to be determined. Sources say WarnerMedia paid \$85 million per year for five years (\$425 million) to reclaim streaming rights to "Friends" for its own platform.

The full cast of "Friends" — Matt LeBlanc, Lisa Kudrow, David Schwimmer, Jennifer Aniston, Matthew Perry and Courteney Cox — are in talks to return for a reunion special, aired on HBO Max.

WARNER BROS. TELEVISION/TNS



WORLD

India pours on pageantry for Trump

Associated Press

AHMEDABAD, INDIA — Basking in addition from a massive, colorful crowd, President Donald Trump and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi lavished each other with praise Monday in a reaffirmation of U.S.-India ties as the subcontinent poured on the pageantry in a joyful welcome for the U.S. president. Trump capped his whirlwind day with a sunset tour of India's famed Taj Mahal.

More than 100,000 people packed the world's largest cricket stadium in Modi's home state to give Trump the biggest rally crowd of his political career. The event was the pinnacle of the day's enviable trio of presidential photo-ops and was sandwiched between Trump's visits to a former home of independence leader Mohandas Gandhi and the Taj Mahal.

Nearly everyone in the stadium in Ahmedabad in western India sported a white cap with the name of the event, "Namaste, Trump" or "Welcome, Trump," and roared for the introductions of both leaders.

But miles away in the capital of New Delhi, Indian police used tear gas and smoke grenades to disperse a crowd of clashing protesters hours before Trump was due to arrive, as violence broke out over a new citizenship law that



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrive for a "Namaste Trump," event Monday at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad, India.

excludes Muslims. Anti-Trump street demonstrations also erupted in Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Gauhati, but not in the city where Trump was hosted.

Embarking on a whirlwind 36-hour visit, Trump opened his speech in Ahmedabad by declaring that he had traveled 8,000 miles to deliver the message that "America loves India, America

respects India and America will always be faithful and loyal friends to the Indian people."

The boisterous scene featured musicians on camels and a musical medley of Bollywood hits and Trump's campaign rally playlist, including numerous Elton John songs that seemed to puzzle most of the crowd.

The president will conclude his

visit on Tuesday in the capital, including meetings with Modi over stalled trade talks and a gala dinner. The two nations are closely allied, in part to act as a bulwark against the rising influence of China.

Trump announced at the stadium that India would soon buy \$3 billion of American military equipment.

Canary Islands' airports reopen, sandstorm eases

Associated Press

MADRID — All airports on Spain's Canary Islands had reopened Monday after authorities said the worst is over from strong winds that thickened the air with sand and dust from the Sahara desert.

The sandstorm was accompanied over the weekend by wind gusts around 75 mph that also fanned at least three wildfires on different islands of the archipelago some 62 miles west of the African coast.

Primary schools were closed

on all eight islands Monday.

The head of the regional government, Angel Victor Torres, said authorities are hoping for the situation to ease as wind speeds diminished and a mild rain fell on some of the islands.

"It's been a nightmare of a weekend," Torres told Spain's public broadcaster TVE. "We haven't seen an episode like this in 40 years."

He said that authorities were focusing resources on fighting wildfires, including one in a natural reserve on the island of Gran Canaria.

Malaysian PM resigns amid political upheaval

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad tendered his resignation to Malaysia's king on Monday while his political party quit the ruling alliance, in a shocking political upheaval less than two years after his election victory.

The prime minister's office said in a brief statement that Mahathir, 94, submitted his resignation to the palace.

The stunning turn of events came amid plans by Mahathir's supporters in Bersatu to team with opposition parties to form a new government and thwart the transition of power to his named successor, Anwar Ibrahim.

Sherpa team to try new Everest climb record

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Four experienced Sherpa guides say they will attempt to climb to the top of Mount Everest in the span of less than a week during the brutal winter season to set a new record on the world's highest peak.

The team is flying on a helicopter to the Everest base camp on Monday and will begin the ascent on Tuesday.

Team leader Tashi Lakpa, 34, said he and the others plan to reach the 29,035-foot summit on Saturday, make a quick descent and return to Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, on Sunday.

"The last teams that scaled the peak in winter did it in two months, but we are planning to do it in five days," Lakpa said.

Haiti police exchange fire with local military

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haitian police officers exchanged gunfire for hours Sunday with soldiers of the newly reconstituted army outside the national palace, in a dangerous escalation of protests over police pay and working conditions.

At least three police officers were wounded, fellow officers told The Associated Press. The army's high command said in an online statement that a soldier had been wounded by a bullet in the back.

Police protests began this month after a half-dozen officers were fired over their attempt to unionize.

Iraq: 1 protester shot dead in fresh violence

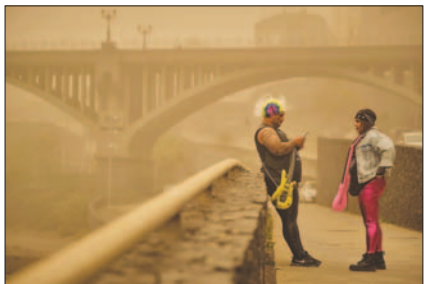
BAGHDAD — One protester was killed in Baghdad's central Khilani Square Sunday evening and at least six were wounded when security forces fired live rounds to disperse crowds, Iraqi security and medical officials said.

The clashes occurred near the Sinak bridge, which was recently reopened by security forces after protesters had blocked access for months.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

Protesters continue to occupy central Tahrir square to the adjacent Jumhuriyah bridge.

From The Associated Press



ANDRES GUTIERREZ/AP

Two people in carnival dress stand beneath a cloud of red dust in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, on Sunday.

US: Free speech no excuse for Julian Assange's crimes

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON — The U.S. government began outlining its extradition case against Julian Assange in a London court on Monday, arguing that the WikiLeaks founder is not a free-speech champion but an "ordinary" criminal who put many lives at risk with his secret-spilling.

U.S. authorities want to try Assange on espionage charges that carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison over the 2010 publication of hundreds of thousands

of secret military documents and diplomatic cables. Assange argues he was acting as a journalist entitled to First Amendment protection.

Lawyer James Lewis, representing the U.S. government, called WikiLeaks' 2010 document deluge "one of the largest compromises of classified information in the history of the United States."

"Reporting or journalism is not an excuse for criminal activities or a license to break ordinary criminal laws," he said.

Dozens of Assange supporters

protested outside the high-security courthouse, chanting and setting off a horn as District Judge Vanessa Baraitser began hearing the case. Assange, 48, watched proceedings from the dock in the courtroom at Woolwich Crown Court.

Assange says the leaked documents exposed U.S. military wrongdoing. Among the files published by WikiLeaks was video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists.

But Lewis said Assange was guilty of "straightforward" criminal activity in trying to hack the computer. And he said WikiLeaks' activities created a "grave and imminent risk" to U.S. intelligence sources in war zones, who were named in the documents.

"What Mr. Assange seeks to defend by free speech is not the publication of the classified materials, but he seeks to defend the publication of sources — the names of people who put themselves at risk to assist the U.S. and its allies," the lawyer said.

WORLD

Car hits crowd at German Carnival

Associated Press

BERLIN — A man intentionally drove a car into a crowd of people at a Carnival parade in a small German town Monday, injuring dozens of people including children, police said.

The driver was arrested, but police couldn't immediately provide details about the man's motivations for crashing into the celebrations in Volkmarshausen, about 175 miles southwest of Berlin.

"We are working on the assumption that it was a deliberate act," police spokesman Henning Hinrichs said, but added that further details of the driver's motives weren't yet known.

Hinrichs said that "there were several dozen injured, among them some seriously and sadly also children."

Some of the injuries were life-threatening, he said.

Emergency responders set up a makeshift clinic in a town pharmacy to treat casualties with minor injuries, the regional Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper reported. Witnesses said the car drove around a barrier blocking off traffic from the parade, according to the paper.

Video from the scene showed a silver Mercedes station wagon with local license plates on a sidewalk, its front windshield badly smashed and hood dented, and its hazard lights blinking, while emergency crews walked by. Forensic experts could be seen taking photos and measurements around the crashed car, walking around fragments of Carnival costumes that littered the ground.

The crash came amid the height of Germany's celebration of Carnival, with the biggest parades in Cologne, Duesseldorf and Mainz. Volkmarshausen, which has a population of 7,000, is east of Duesseldorf, near Kassel.

Police in Western Hesse state tweeted that all other Carnival parades in the state Monday were ended after the crash as a precaution.



Uwe Zucchi, DPA/AP

Police and rescue workers stand next to the scene of the accident with a car that is said to have crashed into a carnival parade in Volkmarshausen, central Germany, on Monday.

10K mourn victims of German racist shooting

BERLIN — Around 10,000 protesters marched through the central German town of Hanau on Sunday to mourn the nine people who were killed by an immigrant-hating gunman four days ago.

"These days and hours are the blackest and darkest our town has ever experienced during peace times," Hanau mayor Claus Kaminsky told the sinner crowds, according to the German news agency dpa. But, he said, those who want to pull society apart won't succeed, "because we are more and we will prevent that."

A 43-year-old German man shot and killed nine people in the Frankfurt suburb on Wednesday before apparently killing his mother and himself. Five of the victims were reported to be Turkish citizens. The attacker left rambling texts and videos with racist views, called for genocide and claimed to have been under surveillance since birth.

Turkey's ambassador to Germany, Ali Kemal Aydin, warned that Turkish immigrants in Germany are experiencing more and more hate crimes in the country.

"This cannot and this must not continue," Aydin said at the protest.

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OPINION

Trump, Taliban both want US troops home

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

ON Saturday, after 19 years of war, the United States and the Taliban began what both sides delicately called a seven-day "reduction of violence" in Afghanistan, a trial attempt at a partial truce. If the experiment works, they have set Feb. 29 for a ceremony to sign an agreement that would launch broader peace negotiations.

The Taliban have a good reason to keep their promise to pause offensive operations for a week: Under the proposed deal, the U.S. will withdraw about one-fourth of its roughly 12,000 troops from Afghanistan by this summer. It's one goal the Taliban shared with President Donald Trump, who wants to run for reelection claiming he is ending the United States' longest war.

But the larger peace process that is supposed to follow will be far more difficult — and the Taliban are not the only complicating factor. There's also Trump's impatience and his penchant for disrupting slow-moving diplomatic efforts at whim. If something goes wrong in the Afghan peace process — and something surely will — he will check his impulse to declare victory and leave?

The plan negotiated by Trump's special envoy, Zalmay Khalizad, has plenty of moving parts. Its terms are being released, but officials and others say it is almost identical to a draft deal Khalizad reached in September. According to their accounts, the deal calls for the U.S. to trim its troop presence from about 12,000 to 8,600 by July — and later, if all goes well, to zero, or at least to the Taliban's desired level. Or the deal would lead to "the withdrawal of all foreign forces ... so that our people can

live a peaceful and prosperous life under the shade of an Islamic system."

The Taliban must agree not to harbor Islamic State, al-Qaida or other terrorist groups that seek to attack the West. The plan even provides for U.S. forces and the Taliban to cooperate on counterterrorism. Peace negotiations among all Afghan factions are supposed to begin within 10 days after the plan is signed. Those talks could lead to a new constitution and give the Taliban a major role in a future Afghan government. Keeping that process on track will require Washington to stay involved in Afghanistan with both diplomatic muscle and continued financial aid — which means Congress will have to buy in.

That hasn't happened. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and other Republican hawks are already grumbling about trusting the Taliban and the folly, in their view, of reducing troops below 8,600.

One question is practical: U.S. forces invaded Afghanistan in 2001 to destroy al-Qaida, which launched the 9/11 attacks from its sanctuary there, and to push the Taliban out of power. Can U.S. counterterrorism needs be met without troops in Afghanistan? Retired Army Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute, who helped run the war under two presidents, says the answer is yes.

"The threat is not what it was in 2001. Al-Qaida is much diminished," he told me. "And we're much better at counterterrorism than we were back when we were simply launching cruise missiles into the desert."

Other questions could be difficult in a different way. Most Americans have concluded that the U.S. war in Afghanistan turned into a tragic, expensive failure once the mission of taking out Osama bin Laden and the explicit U.S. recognition of the Taliban as a legitimate political force makes that

verdict official. And allowing the Taliban to win a share of power — or potentially dominate the government — will diminish whatever hope remains of helping Afghanistan become a recognizable democracy.

Trump has disrupted his own diplomacy more than once. When the U.S. and Taliban reached a tentative deal last September, Trump impulsively decided that he wanted Taliban leaders to fly to Camp David for a splashy ceremony three days before the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

The Taliban, which aren't big on photo ops, refused. Reprehensible in Congress also denounced the idea of honoring the leaders of a guerrilla force who had killed 1,800 Americans by bringing them to the presidential retreat in Maryland. Trump announced that he was canceling the deal entirely, blamed the Taliban for an attack that killed a U.S. service member in Kabul, and pronounced the peace talks "dead."

Khalizad needed almost six months to bring the deal back to life.

If the Feb. 29 deal holds, Trump will claim credit for cutting U.S. troops in Afghanistan down to 8,600 — the same number deployed when President Barack Obama left office. But what Trump really wants is to announce — in an election year, no less — that those troops are on their way home, too. Given the complexities of Afghan politics, that's probably impossible. Diplomats warn that putting pressure on the Afghans to conclude a peace agreement could scuttle the process. If Trump wants to withdraw troops as part of a comprehensive deal — one that avoids chaos, meets U.S. counterterrorism needs and gives Afghanistan a chance at peace — he'll need to exercise unwelcome self-restraint.

Doyle McManus is a Washington columnist for the Los Angeles Times and director of the journalism program at Georgetown University.

Could have 2 picks who reject climate change reality

By FRED HIAAT
The Washington Post

THE survival of our planet as we know it is in danger.

We have at hand a bipartisan, rigorous plan to address that danger. And now it is more than possible that we will end up with two presidential candidates who reject that plan in favor of two varieties of utter unseriousness.

The first is the denialism of President Donald Trump. If he truly believes or cynically pretends to believe that climate change is not a threat. His administration has gravely aggravated the threat, for example by recklessly relaxing regulation of the super-warming gas methane.

The second version is the fantasy extremism of Sen. Bernie Sanders. He would prosecute oil executives "for the destruction they have knowingly caused" (he "welcomes their hatred") and phase out carbon-neutral nuclear power. The Vermont independent would ban the fracking of natural gas, which is — if you control the methane emissions — one of the cleanest fuels now in use. He would ban dirty coal to clean wind and solar. As though by magic, Sanders' proposals will "dramatically decrease the cost of energy storage" and (why not?) make electricity "virtually free" after 2035 (though, sadly, we would still have to pay for "operations and maintenance costs"). All fossil fuels will be gone by 2035, and renewable energy that takes its place will be "publicly owned," and — not to worry — the plan "will pay for itself over 15 years."

Unfortunately, there is no magic wand to make such things happen, as Patrick Poyouanne told me last week. Poyouanne is one of those people who see the world as it really is, he is chairman and chief execu-

tive of Paris-based Total, one of the world's biggest oil and gas companies.

On a recent visit to Washington, Poyouanne himself did not seem particularly hateful, on the contrary. Unlike the U.S. president, he has no doubt that climate change is real and "a huge challenge for mankind."

"I believe the scientists," he said, and he favors a global (and corporate) evolution away from fossil fuels. He wrote to the Environmental Protection Agency to oppose Trump's methane and coal use policies.

As an executive doing business in many countries, however, he is aware of some realities:

■ Eighty percent of the world's energy comes from fossil fuels.

■ Despite growing awareness, and the Paris accord, less than 1% of coal use increased and forests (the best means to pull carbon out of the atmosphere) shrank.

■ Close to 1 billion of the world's 7 billion people have no access to electricity, and their governments are not going to be satisfied with that situation.

■ When it comes to deal with security, every nation is concerned with the security of supply; second with the cost of supply; and only third with its cleanliness.

■ The technology does not exist today to allow a system to rely only on intermittent sources of energy such as wind and solar.

■ Climate change is a global challenge, "and we do not have a global government," Poyouanne said. A U.S. ban on fracking — or the jailing of oil executives, for that matter — would have little impact on climate change. Why? Because much of the world's oil is located in poorer countries that depend desperately on oil exports, and they will gladly make up any shortfall.

"Change will not come from changing the source of supply," he said. "You have to reduce demand."

Which brings us back to the plan, put forward this month by the Climate Leadership coalition, that would actually be supported by energy companies (including Total) and environmental groups alike, it would impose a steadily rising tax on carbon. That would lead to reduced consumption and increased innovation in alternatives, including battery storage for electric cars. And as the world's energy industry, the plan would do away with a lot of regulation — but only so long as emissions were, in fact, going down.

By imposing a tariff on imports from countries without similar carbon taxes, the plan would pressure those countries to take action. And the tax would be socially palatable, because every dollar would be returned in equal shares to taxpayers — with 70% of U.S. households ending up better off.

"A carbon tax offers the most cost-effective leverage to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary," several thousand economists, including virtually every prominent economist to have served in Democratic or Republican administrations, said in a statement.

It should be encouraging, then, that when The Washington Post asked the Democratic candidates whether they would support setting a price on carbon, almost all either said yes or maybe. There were two naysayers: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, and Sanders.

It should be encouraging, but it won't be — if both parties end up with nominees who hate it, in his own way, rejects reality.

Fred Hiatt is The Washington Post's editorial page editor.

Looking at the news

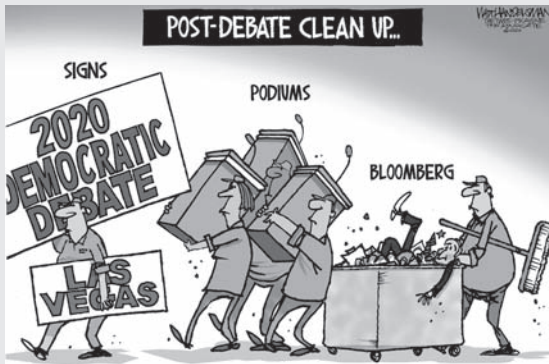
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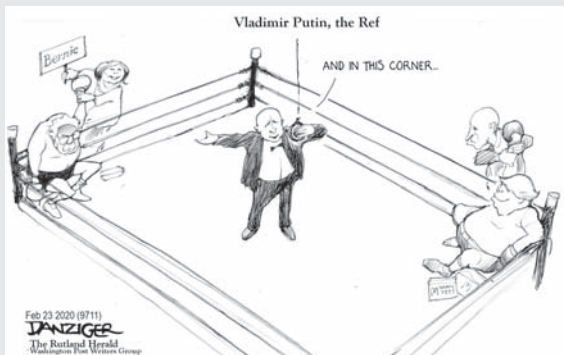
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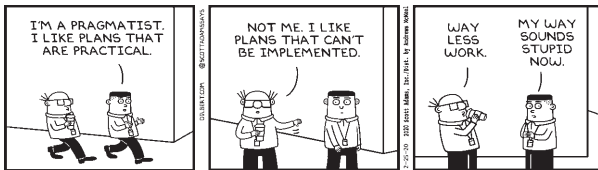


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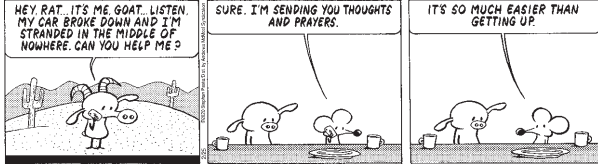
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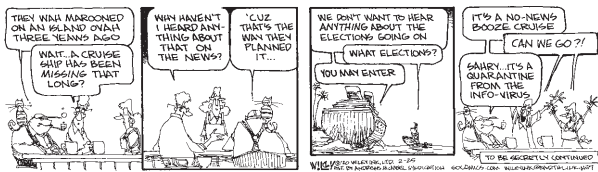
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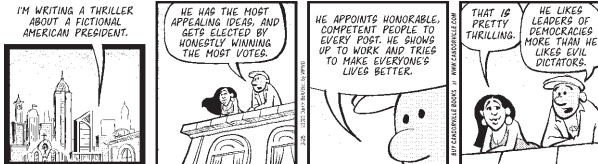
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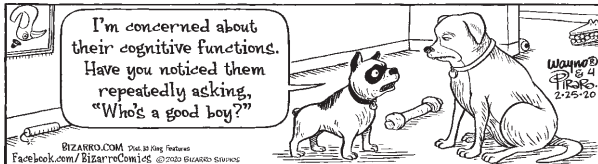
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



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ACROSS

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- 15 Crumbly earth
- 16 Russian empresses
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- 21 N.J. neighbor
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- 51 Crunchy sandwich
- 52 Hidden valley
- 53 Disney CEO
- 54 Robert
- 54 Coquettish
- 55 Lip

DOWN

- 1 Tibetan monk
- 2 Persian Gulf land
- 3 Off-white
- 4 Three-dimensional shapes
- 5 Rock genre
- 6 Employer
- 7 Literary collection
- 8 Old British coin
- 9 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
- 10 Jack of early talk TV
- 11 "Frozen" snow queen
- 17 Pasta sauce brand
- 19 Badminton barrier
- 22 Past
- 23 Male swan
- 24 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
- 25 Coffee vessel
- 26 Apr. addressee
- 27 British big shot
- 28 "Exodus" hero
- 29 Tax form ID
- 31 Crony
- 34 Online icon
- 35 Terse denial
- 36 Speed (up)
- 37 Arboreal apex
- 39 Ashen
- 40 Roman 202
- 41 Pealed
- 42 Formerly
- 43 Angelic light
- 44 The Big Easy acronym
- 45 Pub orders
- 46 "— and Lovers" (D.H. Lawrence novel)
- 48 "This Is Us" network

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	E	I	R	I	L	L	G	R	I	M
E	R	T	E	M	O	O	A	E	R	O
L	I	E	N	P	A	W	N	S	H	O
M	E	M	O	I	R	E	O	C	E	N
				W	H	O	M	B	A	A
F	A	W	N	O	V	E	R	P	T	A
A	L	A	P	E	S	O	S	E	M	U
B	I	T	E	D	A	W	N	E	D	O
		E	V	A	S	D	A	K		
A	P	R	O	N	S	I	G	E	T	I
L	A	W	N	C	A	R	E	D	O	M
B	R	A	N	N	O	S	B	R	I	E
S	T	Y	E	K	I	T		Y	E	N

2-25

CRYPTOQUIP

Z X K M G R M X D R W D Q G K Y
Y K I B E K B D E R D C A V
A U M K I G R M R Z X U R M E C V
N J U I C - A D K J G I B W Y K I M R ? M X D
N D J I K Q E Y K J .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BOND MOVIE WHOSE PLOT REVOLVES AROUND ITS Y-BITSY SHRIMPLIKE CRUSTACEANS: "A VIEW TO A KRILL."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

Xinjun Zhang, \$50,250 71-69-60-70-270 -12

NBA

LeBron lifts Lakers past Celtics

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Although LeBron James is still relatively new to the Los Angeles Lakers' rivalry with the Boston Celtics, he relishes the chance to participate in the history and passion behind this series.

When James had the chance Sunday to make another significant mark in this chapter of NBA history, he stepped back and did it with pleasure.

James scored 29 points and put the Lakers ahead on a fallaway jumper with 30 seconds to play, and Los Angeles split its season series with Boston in a 114-112 victory.

James also had nine assists and eight rebounds in another superb all-around game. He missed a tying free throw moments before he coolly nailed the turnaround shot over Jayson Tatum to put the Lakers ahead to stay in their fifth straight win overall.

"I had been setting him up all night with the back-down to the drop step to the baseline," James said. "I figured he would sit on it, thinking I would try it again, so I just went to my back-down, gave a little Dream Shake to the baseline and was able to open up the middle and get my fadeaway."

When Tatum was called for an offensive foul in the final second, the Lakers could celebrate another memorable meeting between two clubs with 33 NBA titles between them.

James put up a triple-double when Los Angeles won in Boston



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

The Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) drives to the basket against the Boston Celtics during the first half of the Lakers' 114-112 win Sunday in Los Angeles.

last season in his first taste of the rivalry, but the Lakers had lost his ensuing two meetings with the Celtics.

"It's just special to be part of this rivalry," James said. "We understand that this has been going on since the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s, all the way through. So to be a part of a rivalry, to be a part of a historical two-franchise group, this is special. ... (We love) to represent this rivalry with the utmost respect and play this game the right way, as all the former

players have done in the past."

James was thinking of Boston great Bill Russell, who watched the game at courtside while wearing Kobe Bryant's jersey. He was also thinking of Tatum, who matched his career-high with 41 points while wearing a purple wristband in memory of Bryant, a mentor and teacher to the Celtics star.

"That's a great atmosphere," said Boston's Jaylen Brown, who scored 20 points. "It don't get too much better than that. To be

honest, I had a great time. Even though we lost, it was fun being out there competing at the highest level, and it makes you thirsty for the postseason."

Anthony Davis had 32 points and 13 rebounds for Los Angeles, which took a 32-point blowout loss in Boston last month. The Celtics had won 12 of 14 starting with that dominant win.

Davis hit two free throws with 12.3 seconds left in the rematch and added one more with 6.7 seconds to play.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	42	15	.737	—
Boston	39	17	.696	2½
Philadelphia	35	23	.604	7
Brooklyn	26	29	.473	15
New York	17	39	.304	24½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	36	20	.643	—
Orlando	24	32	.429	12
Washington	20	35	.364	15½
Charlotte	19	29	.396	17
Atlanta	17	41	.293	20
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	49	8	.857	—
Indiana	33	24	.579	15½
Chicago	30	28	.519	2½
Detroit	19	40	.322	30½
Cleveland	15	41	.268	33

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	36	20	.643	—
Dallas	32	23	.586	2½
Memphis	28	28	.500	8
New Orleans	25	32	.439	11½
San Antonio	24	32	.429	12
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	39	18	.684	—
Utah	36	20	.643	2½
Oklahoma City	35	22	.614	4
Portland	26	32	.448	13½
Minnesota	16	39	.291	22
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	43	12	.782	—
L.A. Clippers	37	19	.661	6½
Sacramento	23	33	.411	20½
Phoenix	23	34	.404	21
Golden State	12	45	.213	32

Saturday's games

Sacramento 112, L.A. Clippers 103
Brooklyn 115, Charlotte 86
Atlanta 111, Dallas 107
Phoenix 112, Chicago 104
Chicago 126, Washington 117
Philadelphia 107, Detroit 97
Milwaukee 115, Philadelphia 98
Houston 120, Utah 110

Sunday's games

Toronto 127, Indiana 81
Denver 128, Minnesota 116
Oklahoma City 131, San Antonio 103
Chicago 126, Washington 117
New Orleans 115, Golden State 101
Portland 107, Detroit 104
Monday's games
Atlanta at Philadelphia
Miami at Cleveland
Milwaukee at Washington
Orlando at Brooklyn
New York at Houston
Minnesota at Dallas
Phoenix at Utah
Memphis at L.A. Clippers

Tuesday's games

Charlotte at Indiana	7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Toronto	7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Chicago	7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver	7:30 p.m.
Boston at Portland	7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers	8:00 p.m.
Sacramento at Golden State	8:00 p.m.

Wednesday's games

Brooklyn at Washington	7:30 p.m.
New York at Charlotte	7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland	7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Miami	7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Atlanta	7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Houston	8:00 p.m.
Dallas at San Antonio	8:00 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix	8:00 p.m.
Boston at Utah	8:00 p.m.

Leaders

	PTS	FG	FT	AST	REB
Hardy, HOU	52	24/42	58/82	8.6	6.6
Young, ATL	47	18/31	41/58	10.0	9.5
Antetokounmpo, MIL	50	19/32	22/30	14.0	14.0
Lillard, POR	54	20/38	36/54	29.5	29.5
Beal, WAS	47	18/31	22/36	29.5	29.5
Dominic, DAL	43	16/26	11/27	27.3	27.3
Leonard, LAC	43	16/26	11/27	27.3	27.3
Westbrook, OKC	47	19/32	12/18	27.2	27.2
Davis, LAL	47	16/26	12/23	26.7	26.7
Scott, MEM	50	19/32	14/24	26.4	26.4
LaVine, CHI	57	19/32	26/41	25.1	25.1
James, LAL	52	19/32	20/36	25.1	25.1
Drummond, CLE	48	19/32	22/36	24.0	24.0
Mitchell, UTA	55	19/32	21/31	24.0	24.0
Siakam, TOR	45	19/32	21/31	24.0	24.0

Rebounds

	PTS	FG	FT	AST	REB
Drummond, CLE	53	24/42	58/82	15.5	15.5
Goert, UTA	54	19/32	22/36	14.0	14.0
White, POR	52	20/38	36/54	29.5	29.5
Antetokounmpo, MIL	50	19/32	22/30	14.0	14.0
Sabonis, IND	53	19/32	22/36	14.0	14.0
Embiid, PHI	41	11/37	49/62	12.0	12.0
Cucuric, OKC	51	11/37	36/54	10.8	10.8
Wendisch, MEM	53	11/37	36/54	10.8	10.8
Adebayo, MIA	56	14/26	43/54	10.4	10.4
Thompson, CLE	52	21/33	32/43	10.3	10.3

Assists

	PTS	FG	FT	AST	REB
James, LAL	52	19/32	20/36	10.7	10.7
Young, ATL	52	18/31	41/58	10.7	10.7
Rubio, PHX	49	16/26	22/36	8.6	8.6
Dominic, DAL	43	16/26	11/27	27.3	27.3
Lillard, POR	54	20/38	36/54	29.5	29.5
Lowry, TOR	41	16/26	11/27	27.3	27.3
Graham, CHA	56	14/26	43/54	10.4	10.4
Hardy, HOU	52	19/32	22/36	14.0	14.0
Brogdon, IND	45	19/32	21/31	24.0	24.0

FG Percentage

	PTS	FG	FT	AST	REB
Goert, UTA	54	19/32	22/36	14.0	14.0
Allee, OKC	49	16/26	11/27	27.3	27.3
Cabell, UTA	24	44/88	62/99	62.9	62.9
Clarke, MEM	25	44/88	62/99	62.9	62.9
Wright, POR	41	16/26	11/27	27.3	27.3
Simmons, PHI	36	61/117	58/82	58.2	58.2
Valanciunas, MEM	32	57/102	58/82	58.2	58.2

Roundup

Raptors set franchise record with rout of Pacers

Associated Press

TORONTO — Kyle Lowry and the surging Toronto Raptors turned in their showdown with Milwaukee by pounding the Indiana Pacers.

Lowry had 16 points and 11 assists, extending his career-best streak of double-doubles to six, and Toronto hammered Indiana 127-81 on Sunday, the most lopsided victory in Raptors history.

Pascal Siakam scored 21 points and Serge Ibaka had 15 points and a season-high 15 rebounds as Toronto led from wire-to-wire and posted its 13th straight home win over the Pacers. The Raptors won for the 17th time in 18 games and extended their home winning streak to nine.

That streak will be tested when Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks come north of the border Tuesday night, the first of three meetings between the teams down the stretch. The NBA leaders have won seven of eight heading into Monday's game at Washington.

"They're a well-coached team, they're a well-oiled machine," Lowry said. "All we can do is worry about ourselves."

Lowry's double-double was his 13th of the season. He's averaging 19.3 points and 10.8 assists over his current six-game run.

"I've never coached or seen anybody that plays as hard in basketball as that guy," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said.

Toronto's largest lead was 49 points, its big-

gest of the season. The Raptors led by 40 in a home win over Utah on Dec. 1. The 46-point margin of victory surpassed a 36-point win over Charlotte on Nov. 18.

Trail Blazers 107, Pistons 104: CJ McCollum had 41 points, a career-high 22 assists and nine rebounds, Carmelo Anthony scored a season-high 32 points and host Portland rallied to beat Detroit.

It was the first time Anthony scored more than 30 points since Feb. 25, 2017, when he won with the New York Knicks. He made a jumper with the Trail Blazers protecting a two-point lead with 21 seconds left.

Reserve big man Christian Wood had 26 points and nine rebounds for the Pistons.

Bulls 126, Wizards 117: Coby White scored 30 points to join Michael Jordan as the only Bulls rookies with consecutive 30-point games, and host Chicago overcame Bradley Beal's career-high 53 points to snap an eight-game losing streak.

Zach LaVine added 32 points and broke the franchise record for three-pointers in a season. Thaddeus Young scored 25 points, going 5-for-7 from beyond the arc.

Beal surpassed his previous best of 51 points at Portland on Dec. 5, 2017.

Nuggets 128, Timberwolves 116: Paul Millsap scored a season-high 25 points on 9 of 11 shooting and host Denver bounced back from its first loss in the Northwest Division to beat Minnesota.

Millsap made his first six shots of the game before missing with 54 seconds left in the first half.

Nikola Jokic was nearly as sharp, making all six of his shots in the first half and going 11-for-14 from the field. He finished with 24 points and Jamal Murray had 19. The Nuggets shot 58.9% after hitting 68.2% in the first half.

Kelan Martin had 19 of his career-high 21 points in the first half for the Timberwolves.

Thunder 131, Spurs 103: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 22 points and 13 rebounds, Steven Adams added 21 points and 14 rebounds and host Oklahoma City rolled past San Antonio.

Luguentz Dort, a rookie who is on a two-way contract, scored 15 points on 6-for-6 shooting, and Chris Paul added 12 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds to help the Thunder win for the 12th time in 15 games. Eight Oklahoma City players scored in double figures — a first for the team since moving from Seattle in 2008.

Pelicans 115, Warriors 101: Zion Williamson had 28 points and seven rebounds, Jue Holiday scored 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and New Orleans pulled away to win at Golden State.

Nicolo Melli matched his career high with 20 points and six three-pointers, and Brandon Ingram had 17 points and five assists to help the Pelicans win for the fifth time in six games.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Boston	63	29	12	2	60	208/159
Tampa Bay	62	40	17	5	85	221/171
Toronto	63	32	23	8	72	220/210
Florida	62	32	24	6	70	217/212
Buffalo	62	29	26	7	67	202/215
Montreal	64	29	27	8	66	194/195
Ottawa	62	21	30	11	53	164/212
Detroit	64	15	45	4	34	130/240
Metropolitan Division						
Washington	61	38	18	5	82	219/190
Pittsburgh	61	37	18	6	80	201/168
Philadelphia	61	35	20	7	77	206/183
N.Y. Islanders	61	35	20	6	76	176/164
Carolina	61	35	22	4	74	201/172
Columbus	63	30	19	14	74	162/163
N.Y. Rangers	61	33	24	4	70	203/188
New Jersey	61	24	27	10	58	167/210

Western Conference

Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
St. Louis	63	36	17	10	82	200/174
Colorado	61	36	18	7	79	212/166
Dallas	62	36	20	6	78	167/159
Winnipeg	64	32	27	5	69	193/191
Nashville	61	30	23	9	68	195/196
Minnesota	61	29	25	7	65	186/197
Chicago	62	27	27	8	62	182/197
Pacific Division						
Vegas	64	33	22	9	75	208/196
Edmonton	62	33	22	7	73	198/192
Vancouver	61	33	22	6	72	203/187
Calgary	63	32	25	6	70	187/186
Arizona	65	31	26	8	70	181/174
San Jose	62	26	32	4	56	159/203
Anaheim	62	24	30	8	56	161/197
Los Angeles	62	27	35	6	50	156/203

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's games
Washington 5, Pittsburgh 3
Buffalo 2, Winnipeg 1
Dallas 2, Chicago 1
N.Y. Islanders 4, San Jose 1
Calgary 4, Detroit 7
St. Louis 4, Minnesota 1
Edmonton 4, Los Angeles 2
Vegas 6, Anaheim 5, OT

Monday's games

Ottawa at Columbus

Tuesday's games

Calgary at Boston

Dallas at Carolina

N.Y. Rangers vs. N.Y. Islanders at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum

San Jose at Philadelphia

Vancouver at Tampa Bay

Washington at St. Louis

New Jersey at Detroit

Chicago at St. Louis

Columbus at Minnesota

Ottawa at Nashville

Florida at Arizona

Edmonton at Anaheim

Wednesday's games

Buffalo at Colorado

Vegas at Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh at Los Angeles

Thursday's games

Chicago at Tampa Bay

Dallas at Boston

Calgary at Montreal

Toronto at Florida

Vancouver at Detroit

Vancouver at Ottawa

Calgary at Nashville

St. Louis at St. Louis

Washington at Winnipeg

New Jersey at San Jose

Scoring leaders

	Team	THRU	G	A	P
Leon Draisaitl,	EDM	61	35	62	97
David Pastrnak,	BOS	61	35	62	97
Nathan MacKinnon,	COL	61	33	51	84
Artemi Panarin,	NYR	60	30	51	83
Connor McDavid,	EDM	60	30	51	83
Brad Marchand,	BOS	60	30	54	79
John Tavares,	NYR	60	30	54	79
Jonathan Huberdeau,	FLA	62	22	54	76
Patrick Kane,	CHI	61	27	50	76
Nikita Kucherov,	TB	60	29	46	75
Auston Matthews,	TOR	60	23	40	73
John Carlson,	WSH	61	15	28	43
Mark Scheifele,	WPG	63	20	40	66
Evgeny Kuznetsov,	NYR	61	15	28	43
Kyle Connor,	WPG	63	30	43	63

Goals against average

Name, Team	GP	MINS	GA	AVG
Darcy Kuemper, Arizona	25	1517	55	2.17
Tuukka Rask, Boston	36	2102	76	2.17
Tristan Jarry, Pittsburgh	30	1747	65	2.23
Pavel Francouz, Colorado	26	1428	57	2.27
Jack Allen, St. Louis	31	1154	44	2.29
Anton Khudobin, Columbus	25	1375	53	2.31
Elvis Merzljans, Columbus	31	1723	68	2.37
I. Samsonov, Washington	24	1292	52	2.41
John Hynes, Boston	29	1709	69	2.42
Ben Bishop, Dallas	41	2350	94	2.45
J. Korpiola, Columbus	32	1876	78	2.49
S. Varlamov, Islanders	31	1777	91	2.51
Carter Hart, Philadelphia	37	1998	84	2.52
J. Markstrom, Vancouver	43	2551	116	2.58
J. Birmingham, St. Louis	44	2588	112	2.6

Goalkeepers win record

Name, Team	GP	MINS	W	L	OT
A. Vasilevsky, Tampa Bay	46	2765	32	11	3
S. Varlamov, Islanders	44	2588	26	17	1
C. Hellebuyck, Winnipeg	51	2852	26	19	6
J. Hossa, Montreal	47	2701	25	16	6
F. Andersen, Toronto	47	2701	25	16	6
M. Fleury, Vegas	46	2641	25	14	5
S. Varlamov, Vancouver	43	2551	23	16	4
T. Rask, Boston	42	2502	23	16	3
S. Bobrovsky, Florida	47	2622	22	18	5

Roundup

Karlsson's hat trick drives Knights

Vegas defeats Anaheim in OT for 6th straight win

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — William Karlsson and the Vegas Golden Knights have the NHL's longest current winning streak, and they've built it in all sorts of ways.

Blowing a two-goal lead in the third period wasn't what they had in mind. No matter — No slowing Vegas on this roll.

Karlsson got his third career hat trick, Shea Theodore scored in overtime and the Golden Knights extended their winning streak to a season-high six games with a 6-5 victory over the Anaheim Ducks.

Theodore's winner 3:50 into OT came after the Vegas squandered a two-goal lead late in the third period. Mark Stone assisted on the goal to complete his second four-assist game during the winning streak.

Stone started the rush by intercepting Ryan Getzlaf's pass. He passed it to Theodore, who skated up the right side of the ice before releasing a wrist shot from the right faceoff circle to beat goaltender John Gibson.

"I think we've just played good hockey. We've really tightened up our systems," said Theodore, who has nine goals this season. "I think we are sticking to that and really starting to feel that pressure of the end of the season."

Karlsson hadn't scored a goal in his last 20 games coming into Sunday but broke out of that in a big way. His snap shot 19:03 into the second period while Gibson was screened was his first goal since Oct. 11.

Capitals 5, Penguins 3: T.J. Oshie scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period, Braden Holtby made 33 saves and host Washington beat Pittsburgh to snap their losing streak at four and leapfrog their archrivals into first place.

The Capitals endured a back-and-forth, chippy game to win for just the second time in their past



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Vegas Golden Knights center William Karlsson, left, scores past Anaheim Ducks goaltender John Gibson for a hat trick during the third period. Vegas won 6-5 in overtime Sunday in Anaheim.

eight games.

Despite being outshot 36-23, Washington put together responses to some potential momentum-crushing Penguins goals. Pittsburgh's Patric Horqvist and Sidney Crosby scored 26 seconds apart late in the second and Evgeni Malkin had a highlight-reel goal in the third that tied it.

Tom Wilson scored 76 seconds into the third to make it 2-2, two-time Penguins Stanley Cup champion Carl Hagelin put the Capitals up and Oshie shoveled the puck in on a scramble in front with 9:20 left.

Oilers 4, Kings 2: Connor McDavid had a goal and two assists in his return after missing six games because of a quad injury and Edmonton won at Los Angeles.

Leon Draisaitl scored on the power play, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins had a goal and the Oilers moved ahead of idle Vancouver into second place in the Pacific Division.

Mike Smith made 21 saves.

Blues 4, Wild 1: Oskar Sundqvist had a goal and an assist, Jordan Binningman made 32 saves and St. Louis won at Minnesota.

Jordan Kyrou, Brayden Schenn and Ivan Barbashev also scored for the Blues, who have won four straight and retained their spot atop the Western Conference standings.

Sabres 2, Jets 1: Kyle Okposo enjoyed his first two-goal game in 23 minutes, and host Buffalo continued its playoff push with a victory over Winnipeg.

Okposo scored the go-ahead goal 7:37 into the third period and the Sabres won their fifth in six games. Rookie Jonas Johansson stopped 25 shots to earn his first victory in three NHL starts.

Buffalo's surge has moved it into a tie for fifth with Montreal in the Atlantic Division.

Stars 2, Blackhawks 1: Tyler Seguin scored the tiebreaking goal in the second period and host

Dallas beat Chicago.

The Stars' Joe Pavelski opened the scoring in the first period.

Blackhawks rookie Dominik Kubalik tied the game in the second period on the power play.

Islanders 4, Sharks 1: Anders Lee scored twice, Semyon Varlamov made 29 saves and New York won its second straight at Nassau Coliseum, beating San Jose.

Defenseman Devon Toews also scored to help the Islanders move within a point of idle Philadelphia for third place in the tightly contested Metropolitan Division. The reeling Sharks lost their fourth straight.

Flames 4, Red Wings 2: Johnny Gaudreau and Sean Monahan scored in the first period, and Calgary started its road trip by beating Detroit.

Andrew Mangiapane scored the Flames' last two goals, one of which came into an empty net at the end.

Caps acquire Kovalchuk from Canadiens

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Ovi and Kovy show is coming to the NHL.

The Washington Capitals on Sunday acquired winger Ilya Kovalchuk from the Montreal Canadiens for a 2020 third-round pick and will be able to add him to one of the most explosive offenses in hockey.

Washington made the move to get another top-nine forward hours after its second victory in eight games. Montreal will retain 50% of Kovalchuk's \$700,000 salary and cap hit.

The 36-year-old Kovalchuk becomes the

fourth prominent Russian player on the Capitals, joining forwards Alex Ovechkin and Evgeny Kuznetsov and defenseman Dmitry Orlov. He has six goals and seven assists for 13 points in 22 games since joining the Canadiens.

"Ilya is a talented offensive player who we feel will provide us with additional depth and flexibility up front," Capitals general manager Brian MacLellan said. "He is a skilled forward who can make plays and contribute to our offensive game."

Kovalchuk was named MVP of the 2018 Olympics when a team of Russian players,

competing as neutral athletes, won the gold medal. He signed with the Los Angeles Kings that summer and had his contract terminated after putting up 43 points in 81 games.

Ovechkin and Kovalchuk were teammates for Russia at the 2006, 2010 and 2014 Olympics.

In 919 regular-season NHL games, Kovalchuk has 442 goals and 430 assists for 872 points. He's expected to be in the Washington area for the Capitals' morning skate Tuesday and play that night against the Winnipeg Jets.

SOCCER/AUTO RACING

Soccer minus fans? Virus having impact on Italy, elsewhere

By ANDREW DAMPF
Associated Press

ROME — The Italian government is moving toward having soccer matches played behind closed doors in affected areas as authorities try to contain a spreading virus that has made northern Italy the focal point of the outbreak in Europe.

Serie A president Paolo Dal Pinto sent a letter to the government on Monday asking that games no longer be postponed in the affected areas but played without fans in attendance — noting there is little time for make-up dates considering all elite soccer competitions must be completed by May 24 because of the upcoming European Championship.

Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora also proposed the closed-door plan to Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte — although no final decision had been made.

“Playing all sports behind closed doors for the next week could be possible, because then fans can more easily stay at home,” said Maurizio Casasco, the president of the Italian federation for sports physicians. “But the clubs have to be in agreement.”

“There’s more than just soccer in Italy. It’s an issue that regards all sports.”

Four Serie A games scheduled for the previous round on Sunday were postponed, including Inter Milan’s game against Sampdoria at San Siro Stadium.

Also Monday, the first board meeting for the Milan-Cortina Olympics was changed to a video conference instead of being held in Milan. Members of the newly created board of directors for the 2026 Games called in from their respective offices in the Lombardy and Veneto regions, the areas

hardest hit by the virus, the Italian Olympic Committee said.

There are also concerns over Inter’s Europa League soccer match against Ludogorets, with the second leg scheduled for Thursday in Milan. The Bulgarian side has written to UEFA to request more information.

Juventus, which is based in Turin, is scheduled to host Inter next Sunday in the return of former coach Antonio Conte. Other games scheduled for northern Italy next weekend include Udinese-Fiorentina on Saturday and AC Milan-Genoa on Sunday.

Lyon was in contact with UEFA and French authorities over concern about the 2,500-3,000 Juventus fans traveling over the border to a Champions League game in the French city on Wednesday.

Juventus shares fell 11% on the Milan stock exchange in early trading on Monday, forcing a suspension in trading.

Officials still hadn’t pinpointed the origin of Italy’s outbreak and were struggling to contain the number of cases, which by Monday had spread to a half-dozen regions and prompted Austria to temporarily halt rail traffic across its border with Italy.

In South Korea, local soccer authorities indefinitely postponed the start of the 2020 season. The K League made the announcement after an emergency meeting in Seoul as the country grapples with the outbreak. The number of reported cases in South Korea reached 763 on Monday, including seven deaths. Mainland China has reported 2,592 deaths among 77,150 cases.

Also in Asia, the Japanese hockey federation canceled its national women’s team’s games against North America’s top players because of the virus.



STEVE MARCUS, LAS VEGAS SUN/AP

Joey Logano celebrates winning a NASCAR Cup Series race Sunday at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Logano overcomes missed pit call to win at Las Vegas

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The adjustments to a major offseason overhaul at Team Penske continued Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, where miscommunication between Joey Logano and his new crew chief led to a botched final pit stop.

Logano still wound up in victory lane for the second year in a row, winning a two-lap sprint to the finish that ended under caution.

A caution with six laps remaining forced teams to make strategic decisions and crew chief Pat Wolfe told Logano to come to pit road for new tires. Logano didn’t hear Wolfe and remained on

track, a move that cycled him into the lead but put him in position to have a slew of contenders on fresh tires.

Logano knew it was critical to get his Ford separated from the pack quickly on the restart to have any shot at the win.

“Clean air was going to be key with old tires,” he said. “If I got swallowed up by a couple of cars, I was just going to fall backwards really quick.”

Logano got a push from Ricky Stenhouse Jr. on the restart with two laps remaining, then threw a block on William Byron to maintain his position out front that Logano called “the winning move.”

“I was able to get down in front of him and then be able to sepa-

rate myself a little bit from the field,” he said.

Briscoe wins delayed Las Vegas Xfinity race

LAS VEGAS — Chase Briscoe won the rain-delayed Xfinity Series race Sunday night at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

NASCAR was able to complete 50 of the 200 laps Saturday before rain washed out the event and pushed its conclusion to after the Cup race Sunday.

Briscoe had led 27 of the 50 laps Saturday, then resumed his domination in the conclusion. In all, he led five times for a race-high 89 laps in his Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing.

Newman says he suffered head injury

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Ryan Newman said he suffered a head injury in his crash on the last lap of the Daytona 500 but did not disclose details in a statement from the driver read before Sunday’s race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

“I was fortunate to avoid any internal organ damage or broken bones. I did sustain a head injury for which I’m currently being treated,” Newman wrote in a statement. “The doctors have been pleased with my progression over the last few days.”

There is no timetable for Newman’s return to racing, but Roush Fenway Racing said the 42-year-old Indiana native is determined to get back to the track.

“He has expressed unequivocally that this is where he wants to be and he wants to be back in a race car,” said Roush President Steve Newmark, adding that once he returns, Newman wants to be the one to address his health personally.

“Ryan actually wants to be the one in front of you to answer those questions,” Newmark said. “He and I talked about that and he’s kind of championing at the

bit to get back here and I think he feels that would be most appropriate for him to be behind the mic answering a lot of those questions.”

Roush Fenway gave its first detailed account of the harrowing ordeal that began when Newman, while leading the last lap of the rain-delayed Daytona 500, was involved in a crash that sent him hard into a wall, airborne, hit in the driver side door by another car, then trapped in an upside-down Ford on fire as rescue workers tried to free him from the damaged vehicle.

He was hospitalized Monday night in what Roush officials called serious but not life-threatening condition — which Newmark said they did not learn until Newman’s father passed along the information from doctors roughly two hours after the accident.

Newman walked out of the Daytona Beach hospital roughly 42 hours later, appearing unscathed and holding hands with his two young daughters. The photo of that moment, Newman said in his statement, was a testament to the Roush Fenway Racing organization “that built me a car not only fast enough to lead the final seconds of the Daytona 500, but strong enough to do its job under great distress, allowing me to survive such an accident.”



ALFREDO FALCONE, LA PRESSE/AP

An AS Roma fan wears a mask as he watches the Italian Serie A soccer match between Roma and Lecce at the Olympic stadium in Rome on Sunday. Four Serie A matches were postponed in Northern Italy over concerns of the possible spreading of the COVID-19 virus.

MLB



PHOTOS BY JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

A fan holds a sign during a spring training baseball game between the Houston Astros and the Washington Nationals on Sunday in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Astros stars sit out again as Nats hoist Series trophy

By CHUCK KING
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Away from their friendly cocoon, Alex Bregman and some of the bigger names on the Houston Astros are about to see — and hear — how fans really feel about what happened.

No hooting or hollering at Houston's most prominent sign stealers Sunday. Once again, the primary offenders were out of the Astros' lineup.

For the second straight day, Astros manager Dusty Baker didn't start any of his stars against Washington Nationals at the spring training park the teams share.

"It seems like a bit of a cop-out to me," Nationals fan Josh Kohn said. "This is the first two games of spring training. This is what the guys in MLB live for. They want to be out there. I have to imagine even the players are a little upset that they can't play today, but I understand why they are not out there."

Kohn also attended Saturday night's rained-out Grapefruit League opener between these same clubs, wearing a shirt that read "bang foul poles, not trash cans" — an homage to Howie Kendrick's home run in Game 7 of the World Series that gave Washington the lead over the Astros for good.

Several Astros fans asked Kohn to pose for pictures with them.

"I don't think we have as much grief with them because we beat them," Kohn said. "If we lost it would be different. The Dodgers are pretty upset. I think it's nice that we can start the season off like, 'Hey guys, remember what happened last year?'"

Jose Altuve, Bregman, Carlos Correa and Yuli Gurriel — all starters in 2017 — are expected to make their exhibition debuts on Monday when Houston travels to Lakeland to face Detroit. The trip takes over 2½ hours each way.

Though Houston was technically the visitor on Sunday, the game against the Tigers will be the Astros' first true road game of the spring.

In January, Major League Baseball stripped the Astros of their top draft choices for the next two seasons, and suspended manager AJ Hinch and general



Washington Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman holds the 2019 World Series Trophy before a spring training baseball game against the Houston Astros on Sunday.

manager Jeff Luhnow — the pair subsequently fired — following an investigation that found Houston players illegally stole signs during their 2017 World Series championship season and again in 2018.

Even without the stars being on the field Sunday, some fans didn't resist yelling their disapproval.

Dressed in a Yankees T-shirt and cap, Ron Scelfo shouted "Let's go cheaters" as Astros right fielder Kyle Tucker walked to the plate for the game's first at-bat.

Other fans sporadically yelled "cheaters" at quiet points early in the contest.

Balpark of the Palm Beaches staffers prevented a couple of fans from entering with signs, though some fans wrote makeshift messages on paper.

Washington general manager Mike Rizzo and first baseman Ryan Zimmerman hoisted the World Series trophy as part of a pregame ceremony. The Nationals raised a flag beyond the right-center field wall toutring the 2019 title, doing so as many of the Astros — the team they defeated — made their way from the clubhouse and down the left field line to their dugout.

Not his 1st rodeo

Diamondbacks' Bumgarner concedes he competed in team roping under an alias

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Arizona Diamondbacks left-hander Madison Bumgarner has been competing in rodeo events under the alias Mason Saunders and even won \$26,560 in a team-roping competition in December, according to a story published Sunday by The Athletic.

Bumgarner told the website he has discretely competed in rodeos for a while, including in March of last year two days before pitching for the San Francisco Giants in a Cactus League spring training game. He has been roping since he was 15 or 16 years old and said he's been at it so long that "it's just part of who you are."

The 2014 World Series MVP agreed to an \$85 million, five-year contract with the Diamondbacks in December, about two weeks after winning the rodeo competition in Wickenburg, Ariz.

Bumgarner infamously injured his shoulder in 2017 in a dirt bike accident and missed three months of San Francisco's season. He apologized at the time and called it a "stupid" decision that likely violated his contract,

although the Giants are not believed to have pressed the issue with the four-time All-Star.

Diamondbacks general manager Mike Hazen told The Athletic he was "not going to get into discussing specific contract language" when asked about Bumgarner's hobby.

Photos of Bumgarner roping were posted to the Facebook page for Rancho Rio in Wickenburg. Bumgarner — a right-handed roper — said he's often recognized at rodeo events, but he's maintained the alias to keep his profile low. He formed the Mason Saunders moniker by shortening his first name and adopting his wife's maiden name as the surname.

"Something for my wife to call me when we were out in public to keep people from recognizing me," Bumgarner said. "But you're going to ruin that for me."

Bumgarner disputed a widespread narrative that he signed with Arizona "just to have my horses," but did acknowledge it was a benefit. He also said he may pursue roping more rigorously after his baseball playing days are done.

Akiyama singles, shines in spring debut with Reds

By JOSE M. ROMERO
Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Shogo Akiyama gave Cincinnati Reds fans a small taste of what he can provide at the top of the batting order and in the outfield Sunday in his first spring training game with the team.

Akiyama, hitting leadoff and playing center field, lined the second pitch he saw from Chicago White Sox starter Dylan Cease into right field for a single. In the top of the third inning, he made a running catch going to his left on a sinking line drive from Nicky Delmonico.

The five-time Pacific League All-Star is the first player from Japan to sign a major league contract with the Reds. At least a dozen Japanese media members tracked his every move before and after his day at Goodyear Ballpark in the Reds' spring training opener.

The perception of Akiyama in Japan is that he isn't on the same level as Los Angeles Angels two-way player Shohei Ohtani or former Seattle Mariners outfielder Ichiro Suzuki, both of whom took the majors by storm when they arrived in the U.S. But Akiyama holds the Japanese league record for hits in a season with 216, set in 2015.

"I was very nervous, but definitely relieved that I got my first hit," the left-handed-hitting Aki-

DID YOU KNOW?

Shogo Akiyama is a five-time Pacific League All-Star in Japan and holds the Japanese league record with 216 hits in a season.

SOURCE: Associated Press

yama said through a translator. "It was also good that I was able to see a lot of pitches."

After four innings in the field, he grounded into a fielder's choice in his third and final at-bat. But reaching first allowed him to try stealing a base, which he'd done 112 times in his nine-year career in Japan.

"It wasn't a goal, but I just wanted to see if I could do it," Akiyama said. "To see if I have a chance. It was good that I was able to run it out."

Akiyama was thrown out at second base to end the fourth inning and his day.

The Reds signed the 31-year-old Akiyama to a three-year, \$21 million contract in the offseason, winning the bidding for his services as part of a roster makeover that the team hopes will help it contend in the NL Central.

While it's not a certainty that Akiyama will be the Reds' regular center fielder, his ability to get on base is something Cincinnati was seeking at the top of its order.

BOXING/GOLF



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BREKKEN/AP

Tyson Fury arrives in the arena before Saturday's WBC heavyweight championship match against Deontay Wilder in Las Vegas. Fury won by TKO in the seventh round.

Fury is one of a kind

'The Gypsy King' reclaims crown

By TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The world has never seen a heavyweight champion quite like Tyson Fury, the British behemoth who gave Deontay Wilder a beat down to win the heavyweight title and then celebrated by leading his fans in a chorus of "American Pie" from the ring at the MGM Grand.

He can fight, he can sing and he can talk. Oh, can he talk.

Before the fight Fury talked nonstop about how he was going to switch from boxer to puncher to take the heavyweight title from Wilder. After the fight he talked about how he did just that — and will only get better as his career goes on.

"Not bad for a fat guy who can't punch," the 6-foot-9 Fury crowed after handing Wilder his first defeat in a fight so one-sided that Wilder's corner finally threw in the towel at 1:39 of the seventh round of their heavyweight show-down Saturday night. "I had a dream of coming to Las Vegas and taking over. Now here I am."

It wasn't supposed to play out like this. Not against an unbeaten heavyweight champion so feared he had knocked out 41 of 43 men put in the ring against him.

Not after Fury plunged into the depths of despair a few years back when his life was spiraling out of control and cocaine and alcohol had made his weight balloon 37 pounds.

But now the Gypsy King has the heavyweight title once again, five years after first winning it from Wladimir Klitschko.

And, no matter what his fellow



Tyson Fury, left, hits Deontay Wilder during their WBC heavyweight championship fight on Saturday in Las Vegas.

Brit Anthony Joshua might say, he should be hailed by all in boxing as the best heavyweight in the world.

"Everybody knows I'm a master boxer," Fury said. "But that didn't work the last time. I got a draw and a draw is a failure to me. The only way I could guarantee I was going to get a win was a knockout."

The path to greatness in Sin City was a troubled one. Fury had to beat his demons before he could beat the best heavyweights, and then had to beat the skeptics to be considered the best of the best.

Against Wilder he proved he was just that in a fight most never saw coming. Most, that is, who thought Fury was bluffing when he said he would go after Wilder from the opening bell in the rematch of their draw from 14 months earlier.

He put on a show in a theatrical entrance, wearing a crown and carried aloft on a throne. Then he put a show on in the ring, knock-

ing Wilder down in the third round with a right hand to the head and again in the fifth with a left to the body.

By the time Wilder's corner threw in the towel, the outcome of the fight had long since been decided.

As for the singing afterward? Well, Fury might not want to quit his night job — one that made him \$30-40 million for the signature use of his career.

"Were you not entertained?" Fury asked afterward. "I've now finished off my collection. I've won every belt in boxing."

If any more evidence was needed that Fury has established himself as the best heavyweight around, oddsmakers at the Westgate Superbook opened betting on a possible Joshua-Fury matchup with Fury a big minus-260 favorite.

"We've never seen a guy of this size with this ability," promoter Bob Arum said.

And that's something to sing about.

Commentary

Reed ramps up play as accusations get louder

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The bookies had Patrick Reed at 40-1 odds going into the Mexico Championship, which should have come down before he even hit a shot.

More accusations of cheating, this time from Brooks Koepka during a town hall show on Sirius XM. And then former CBS analyst Peter Kostis weighed in during a "No Laying Up" podcast in which he said he saw Reed improve his lie four times.

The noise got louder.

And that's when Reed always seems to get better.

His one-shot victory in Mexico City might not quiet any critics. It left no doubt, however, that the 29-year-old Reed might be as resilient as anyone in golf.

He says he doesn't listen, and that his team — wife Justine, her mother, attorneys — fill him in.

"It didn't bother me at all," Reed said. "I'm on the golf course, I'm focusing on what I need to do."

Reed was part of a massive traffic jam, even by Mexico City standards, at Chapultepec Golf Club. Five players had at least a share of the lead at one point. Four were tied headed for the back nine.

He closed with a 4-under 67 for a one-shot victory, his eighth on the PGA Tour and second World Golf Championship.

No one should have been surprised, least of all runner-up Bryson DeChambeau. He has taken criticism for his pace of play, feeling as though he has become a target.

"There's been a lot of stuff said in past years, I guess you could say, with him, and even with me. I feel like unfortunately sometimes we get quite a bad rap," DeChambeau said.

What dogs Reed was a moment in the third round at the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, when his ball was in an awful lie in the waste area on the 11th hole. Video clearly showed him twice swiping away sand behind his ball. In the scoring room after-

ward, Reed accepted the two-shot penalty, all while saying a different camera angle would have shown his club wasn't as close to the ball as it looked and he didn't know his club touched the sand. Twice.

It was a bad look, but it didn't bother Reed. He shot 66 the next day and finished third.

Cameron Smith spoke out against him ahead of the Presidents Cup, where Reed was heckled so badly that his caddie, brother-in-law Kessler Karain, had an altercation with a fan and was suspended from caddy-ing in the final session.

The next day, Reed won his first point of the week, handily beating C.T. Pan in 18 holes.

In his next PGA Tour start, Reed was in a three-man playoff at Kapalua. On his final putt in the playoff, which Thomas was, a fan cried out, "CHEATER!" as the ball was on its way. Reed says he never heard him.

In San Diego, the heckling got so bad that Reed asked security to remove a fan. He tied for sixth.

This week was the loudest. Koepka was in the Bay Area to preview his title defense at the PGA Championship when he was asked by radio host Sway Calloway about Reed. "Was he cheating?"

"Uh, yeah. I think, yeah, yeah," Koepka said. "I mean, I don't know what he was doing, building sand castles in the sand. But you know, you know where your club is. I mean, I took three months off and I can promise you I know if I touched sand."

Kostis on the podcast said he saw Reed ramp down grass in the rough to allow for a better lie, though he said he wouldn't know if Reed had done it intentionally. That accusation has been made about other players in the past. But with Reed, especially now, it added a chapter.

And then he won in Mexico, moving to No. 1 in the Race to Dubai, No. 5 in the FedEx Cup, No. 8 in the world ranking.

That won't stop the noise.



FERNANDO LLANO/AP

Patrick Reed gives the thumbs up after winning the WGC-Mexico Championship golf tournament in Mexico City on Sunday.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 25 Buckeyes beat No. 7 Terps

Ohio State gets fourth win over Top-10 team

By NICOLE KRAFT
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State coach Chris Holtmann sat across from Luther Muhammad at a recent lunch and told him there would soon be a day when the sophomore guard would need to “be the difference.”

That day turned out to be Sunday.

Muhammad scored 22 points and No. 25 Ohio State beat No. 7 Maryland 79-72, snapping the Terrapins' nine-game winning streak.

Ohio State (18-9, 8-8 Big Ten) defeated a Top-10 team for the fourth time this season.

“He had big threes, great confidence,” Holtmann said of Muhammad, who went 4-for-8 from beyond the arc. “They went under a lot of those ball screens at times and he was able to raise up and shoot it behind it, which was huge. I think he’s playing with a lot of confidence.”

Four other Buckeyes scored in double figures, led by Kaleb Wesson with 15 points. Duane Washington Jr. added 13, while Andre Wesson and C.J. Jackson each had 12.

“I am just happy we won,” Muhammad said. “I’m happy we all played hard, happy we stayed together. They made a lot of runs. They dug themselves back into the game. We just stayed together.”

Aaron Wiggins led Maryland (22-5, 12-4) with 20 points and Eric Ayala had 16, but the Terrapins got little help from their big guns. Leading scorer Jalen Smith, who averages 17.1 points per game, was held to eight. Anthony Cowan, who averages 16.9, scored 10 before fouling out.

“They deserve all the credit,” Maryland coach Mark Turgeon said. “They made us pay for mistakes. They got loose balls. They got free throws. They were terrific.”

“My guys battled. We didn’t compete the first two minutes of the first half. Then we started to compete, we battled, never gave up. They were the better team.”

The Buckeyes dominated from outside, shooting 40% (10-for-25) from three-point range.

The Terrapins fought back late, getting within four points with 32 seconds left, but the Buckeyes put the game away at the free throw line, where they went 16-for-16.



Ohio State's Kaleb Wesson dunks the ball against Maryland on Sunday in Columbus, Ohio. The Buckeyes knocked off the No. 7 Terrapins 79-72, ending Maryland's nine-game win streak.

JAY LAPORTE/AP

Spot: BYU moves off the bubble

FROM BACK PAGE

On a related note, the loss by Gonzaga could put its No. 1 seeding in jeopardy. But losses by top-ranked Baylor and No. 4 San Diego State helped its cause, and the Bulldogs still have some of the best advanced metrics in the country.

Rising

Virginia (19-7, 11-5 ACC): The reigning national champion were an afterthought a month ago, but wins over Boston College and Pittsburgh last week have continued a hot streak stretching to four games. And with games down the stretch against Louisville and Duke, there are plenty of chances of the Cavaliers to become a lock.

Michigan (18-9, 9-7 Big Ten): Has any team gone on a bigger roller coaster this season than the Wolverines? They shot up the polls with a brilliant start, went through a mid-season swoon, and now have won five in a row to get back in the picture for an at-large bid.

Utah State (22-7, 11-5 Mountain West): The Aggies are poised to make the Mountain West more than just a one-bid league regardless of what happens with San Diego State in the conference tournament. They've ripped off five straight wins and behind Sam Merrill's continued offensive brilliance.

UCLA (17-11, 10-5 Pac-12): There are a whole bunch of bubble teams in the league — we see you, Southern California and Stanford. But the Bruins have come alive under Mick Cronin, winning five straight to make a strong at-large case.

Falling

North Carolina State (17-10, 8-8 ACC): There is no shame in a conference loss to Florida State, but the Wolfpack now have dropped five of their last eight games. Duke is also on the schedule during their final four-game stretch.

Marquette (17-9, 7-7 Big East): The Golden Eagles have been a mainstay in the Top 25 most of the season, and they have one of the nation's most exciting players in Markus Howard. But three straight losses have put them on the NCAA Tournament bubble, and tough games against Georgetown and No. 16 Seton Hall loom.

Oklahoma (16-11, 6-8 Big 12): The Sooners have dropped three straight, and while losses to Baylor and Kansas are hardly a black eye, a lopsided loss to Oklahoma State was especially damaging.

South Carolina (16-11, 8-6 SEC): The Gamecocks' postseason hopes took a big blow last week with losses to Mississippi State and LSU. They'll get the Bulldogs again during a four-game finishing kick in which they should be favored to win out.

Top 25 roundup

Resilient Hoosiers knock off No. 9 Nittany Lions

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — In a game full of wild swings, Indiana boxed out No. 9 Penn State.

The Hoosiers let a 19-point first-half lead completely disappear, fell behind by six and then rallied for a 68-60 victory Sunday.

“We play the game in 10 four-minute battles or rounds like a fight,” Indiana coach Archie Miller said. “There is going to be swings and you have to fight through it and find way to weather it.”

Al Durham scored 14 points and Trayce Jackson-Davis had 13 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Hoosiers (18-9, 8-8 Big Ten).

“We got off to great start and should have had a bigger lead going into halftime, but we made some dumb errors,” Miller said. “We took a huge punch in the second half and times this year that punch has hurt us a lot more.”

Devonte Green contributed 10 points for the Hoosiers, who made their final four free throws to help seal the win.

“At the end of the game, we made almost every single hard hustle play,” Miller said. “We were able to make some plays when it was tough. We found a



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Indiana forward Jerome Hunter, right, goes up to block the shot of Penn State guard Jamari Wheeler during the second half of Sunday's game in Bloomington, Ind. The Hoosiers won 68-60.

way to finish. For the most part, we played smart. We fought and finished the last two games well defensively.”

Lamar Stevens, who was plagued with foul trouble all game, led Penn State (20-7, 10-6) with 29 points on 11-for-27 shooting.

“Lamar was great but he needs

help,” Penn State coach Patrick Chambers said. “When we are successful we are sharing the basketball. We were relying on one guy.”

Penn State has been without Myreon Jones, who is averaging 14.1 points, who has missed the last five games with an undisclosed illness.

No. 15 Creighton 81, No. 21 Butler 59: Marcus Zegarowski made all seven of his three-pointers and finished with 25 points, and the host Bluejays beat the Bulldogs for their fourth straight win over an AP Top 25 opponent.

The Bluejays (22-6, 11-4 Big East) have won nine of 10 and remain one game behind conference-leading Seton Hall.

Butler (19-9, 7-8), which dropped its third straight game, played the second half without top scorer Kamar Baldwin. He limped off the court late in the first half with a left ankle injury. Zegarowski led Creighton's torrid shooting performance, setting his career high with the seven threes. The Bluejays finished with a season-high 15 threes on 26 attempts.

No. 16 Seton Hall 81, St. John's 65: At Newark, N.J., Myles Powell scored 18 points, Sandro Manuvelashvili added 16 points and nine rebounds and the Pirates beat the Red Storm.

Jared Rhoden added 14 points and Romero Gill had 12 points while going 6-for-6 from the floor in the wire-to-wire victory for Seton Hall (20-7, 12-3 Big East). LJ Figueroa led St. John's (14-13, 3-11) with 19 points.

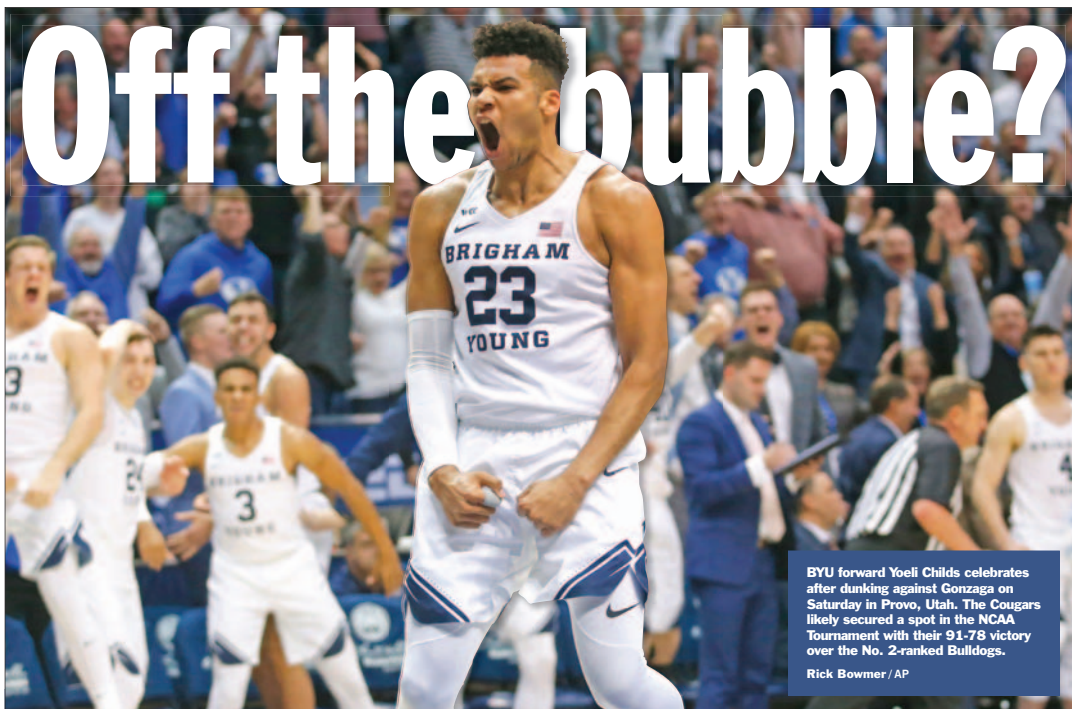
SPORTS



One of a kind
Fury a heavyweight champ
unlike any other » **Page 22**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Off the bubble?



BYU forward Yoeli Childs celebrates after dunking against Gonzaga on Saturday in Provo, Utah. The Cougars likely secured a spot in the NCAA Tournament with their 91-78 victory over the No. 2-ranked Bulldogs.

Rick Bowmer / AP

BYU's big win over Zags should solidify NCAA tourney spot

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

BYU might just have gone from the most precarious of positions on the NCAA Tournament bubble to a near lock in one memorable night, thanks to a spectacular effort against second-ranked Gonzaga.

The Cougars (23-7) were trending in the right direction anyway, winning seven straight heading into their matchup with the Bulldogs. But the show they put on in a 91-78 victory Saturday night, long after folks on the East Coast probably went to bed, was exactly the kind of game BYU coach Mark Pope had been hoping to see as March drew near.

'This team has been through a lot this year but what I love about us is that we continue to fight. Adversity comes our way and the next day we're at practice ready to fight.'

T.J. Hawes
BYU guard

"I'm super happy. It just doesn't happen like this," he said. "They just kind of dug in and kept battling for four years or five years or six years. Then they set the table with a summer that was really demanding and difficult. Waking up every single morning and fighting their own agenda so that they could sacrifice for this team. A lot of times you do all that stuff and you don't get that senior night, but these guys did and it's extraordinary and I am so happy for them."

"It's actually really humbling," Pope added, "because it just doesn't work like this a lot, but it worked for this crew. I hope that all 18,000 of us in there and everybody that watched it on TV got to see something they'll never forget."

Now, the question isn't whether the the Cougars will get into the tournament but where they will be seeded. They have one more regular-season game left against Pepperdine before the West Coast Conference Tournament, where they could face the Zags in a rubber match — the Bulldogs beat them at home earlier this season.

"When you experience those lows," BYU guard T.J. Hawes said, "winning is that much sweeter. This team has been through a lot this year but what I love about us is that we continue to fight. Adversity comes our way and the next day we're at practice ready to fight. When you have a team that works so hard, moments like this happen."

SEE SPOT ON PAGE 23

Top-10 upsets:

■ Ohio State ends No. 7 Maryland's nine-game streak, Page 23 ■ Hoosiers hold on to beat No. 9 Penn State, Page 23

Bumgarner admits to moonlighting in rodeo » Page 21

